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**MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT
ON
CONSUMER POPULATIONS
JULY 1993**

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

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**Department of Social Services
Linda K. Carlisle, Commissioner
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Charles D. Baker
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William F. Weld Governor**

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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT
ON
CONSUMER POPULATIONS
JULY 1993**

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December, 1993

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SUMMARY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES CLIENT POPULATION

Characteristics of the Consumer Population July 1993

- In July 1993 there were 21,878 open cases (families) with DSS, including 12,577 children placed out-of-home. There were 73,298 consumers in these 21,878 cases.
- Of the 73,298 consumers, 56% were female and 59% were children. Although the proportions of male and female children were equal, female adults outnumbered males by about 2 to 1.
- White consumers predominated in all DSS Regions except Boston. Minorities accounted for 76% of all consumers in Boston. Black consumers were the largest minority group in Boston. Hispanics were the largest minority group in the West, Central, and Northeast. Black and Hispanic consumers were present in similar numbers in the Metro and Southeastern Regions.
- The proportion of consumers with a preferred language other than English ranged from 7% in the Southeastern and Central Regions to 15% in the Northeast.
- The Boston Region provided services to 21% of the statewide consumer population. Proportions for the remaining regions were: 18% West, 18% Southeast, 15% Northeast, 15% Metro, and 12% Central.
- Eighty-two percent of the mothers in the Boston caseload were single mothers compared to 63-66% in the other regions.
- There were 13,311 consumers¹ in placement statewide: 25% in Boston, 17% in the West, 16% in the Southeast, 15% in the Northeast, 11% in Metro, and 10% in Central. An additional 5% were categorized as Central Office placements.

¹ Ninety-four percent of the consumers in placement are children under 18 years old. The remaining consumers are young adults 18 years and older who are: (1) 766 (special education) eligible and are being transitioned to the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Mental Retardation (DMR); (2) enrolled in a full-time school (high school, GED program, vocational training, college) and are being transitioned to independent living; and (3) eligible for the unaccompanied-refugee-minor program and are being transitioned to independent living.

- The 13,311 consumers in placement represented 18% of all consumers receiving services. Fifty-three percent of these consumers had been in continuous placement for more than 2 years, 20% for >1 to 2 years, and 28% for 1 year or less. Since last year, there has been a 3% increase in children in care for more than four years.
- Forty percent of the 13,311 consumers had not left their initial placement location, 24% had changed placement locations once, and 36% had changed two or more times.
- From 1992 to 1993, the number of *children* (consumers under 18 years old) in placement rose by 2% to 12,577. The median age of these *children* was 9.3 years and the median time in care was 2.1 years.
- Annual changes in the placement population by ethnicity/race were: white (less than 1%), black (-1%), Hispanic (+14%), and "other" minority (+4%).
- Seventy-six percent of the *children* in placement were in foster homes² (unrelated and relatives), 12% in community residences, and 8% in pre-adoptive homes. The remaining *children* were in shelters, hospitals, and other low frequency locations.
- The length of time that foster *children* spent in placement differed by ethnicity/race: 57% of black foster *children*, 44% of white, 43% of Hispanic, and 47% of other minorities were in placement for more than two years.
- The majority of black *children* in foster care live in the Boston Region where length of stay in care is longer for all *children*, regardless of ethnicity/race (2.2 years median time in care for all *children*).
- Thirty-nine percent of the *children* in placement were adolescents (12 to 17 years old); 53% of these adolescents were female.
- The median age of *children* in foster care ranged from 6.6 years in Boston to 9.7 years in the West. Median time spent in foster care was lowest in the West and Metro Regions (1.5 years) and highest in Boston (2.2 years).

² Foster care is a specific type of placement that includes children living out-of-home with relatives or unrelated foster parents.

Significant Changes in the Consumer Profile: 1987 vs. 1993

Upon comparing the characteristics of the 1987 and 1993 consumer populations, the following changes were most evident (refer to page 29 for more detailed information):

Consumers

- Eleven percent more consumers were receiving services from DSS in 1993 compared to 1987. This gain occurred primarily among the minority populations being served. There was substantial growth in the Hispanic (+85%) and black (+49%) consumer groups. Minority consumers accounted for 44% of all consumers in 1993 compared to 32% in 1987.
- Although their numbers are relatively small, the following minority groups increased considerably: Cape Verdeans +46%, Cambodians +190%, and Vietnamese +180% (see table on page 29).
- There were only 68 Laotians receiving services in 1993; however, this group is 183% larger than in 1987.
- Portuguese were the only minority group to show an appreciable decline (-14%).
- Spanish-speaking consumers increased 52% to 5,568.
- Haitian-speaking consumers rose 72% to 301.
- Consumers in placement (includes children under 18 years old and young adults 18 and older) increased 56% to 13,311.
- The proportion of consumers in placement for two or more years grew from 41% to 53%.

Children under 18 years old in Placement

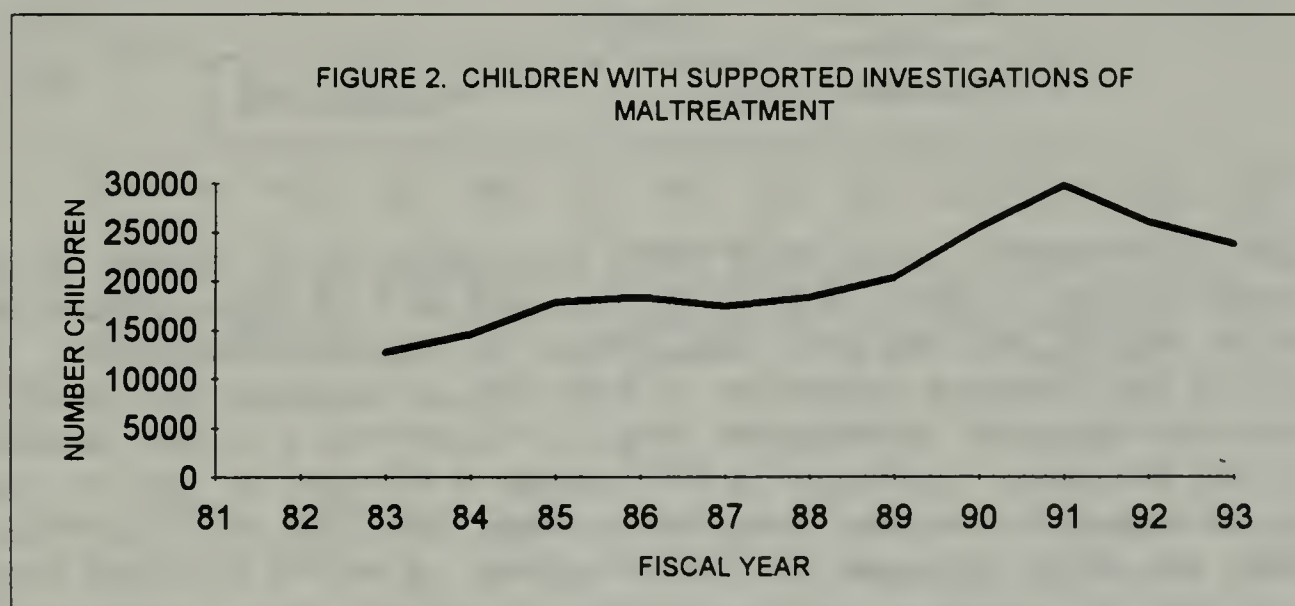
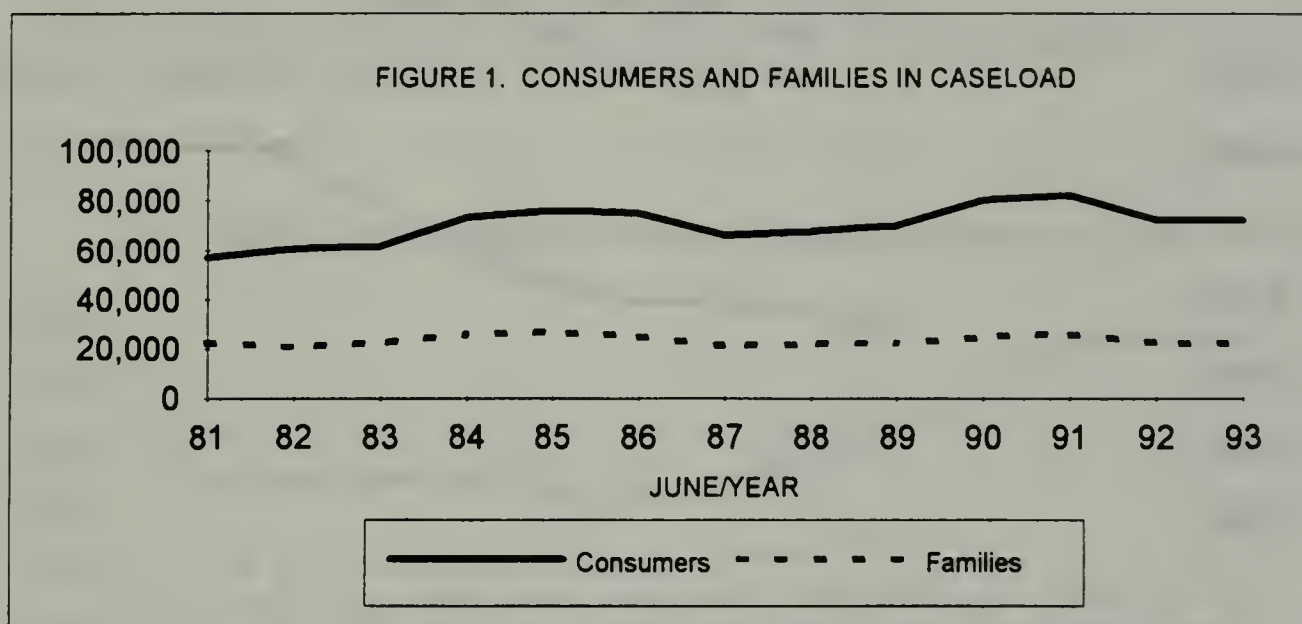
- Although there were 27% more adolescents in placement in 1993 compared to 1987, the proportion of adolescents dropped from 48% to 39%. During this period, the proportion of children under six years old in placement rose from 22% to 34%.

Children under 18 years old in Placement (cont'd)

- The increase in minority consumers in the total caseload was reflected in the placement population. The proportion of minority children in care grew from 37% to 51%. The 1987 proportions of Hispanic and black children in care were 8% and 20%, respectively, compared to 16% and 27% in 1993.
- Median age of children in placement dropped from 10.7 to 9.3 years old and time spent in care increased from 1.5 to 2.1 years.
- Children in placement in 1993 were less likely to have case opening via a voluntary request. The proportion of children in care with a voluntary case opening declined from 28% to 16% while children with a case opening by way of a supported maltreatment report rose from 59% to 70%.
- From 1987 to 1993, the proportion of black pre-adoptive children increased from 18% to 30%.
- Children under six years old represented 53% of pre-adoptive children in 1993 vs. 35% in 1987.
- To a lesser degree, the race, age, and initial-contact-type changes noted for children in placement applied to children not in placement.

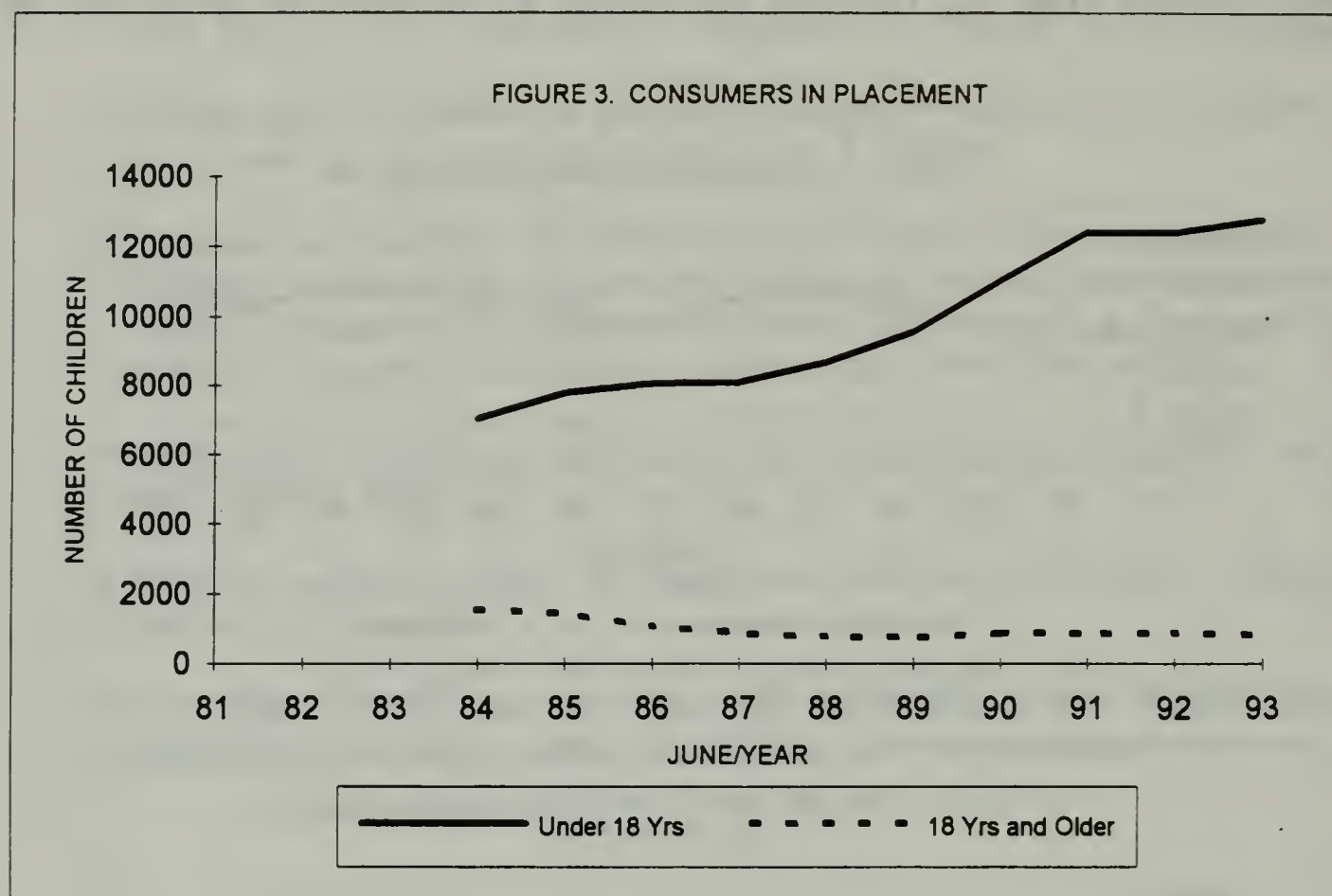
Fiscal Year Trends

Consumers vs. Children with Supported Investigations: Statistics dating back to 1983 indicate an association between annual counts of consumers in the caseload and children with supported investigations of maltreatment. The years 1983, 1987, and 1989 marked the start of clearly defined increases in consumers (Fig. 1, below) and maltreated children (Fig. 2). The most pronounced growth occurred during 1983-85 and 1989-91.



In 1991, the number of consumers receiving services and the number of children abused or neglected reached their highest levels in the history of the DSS (Figs. 1 and 2). These peak numbers were the culmination of four years of growth. This growth ended in 1992 as the number of consumers being served by DSS decreased 11%. During this same period, there was a 12% drop in children with supported investigations. Although the number of children with supported investigations continued to decline in 1993 (-9%), the consumer population remained stable. Less people entering (case openings) the DSS system was balanced by less people leaving (case closings).

Consumers (Children and Young Adults) in Placement: As with total consumers and maltreated children, the number of children under 18 years old in placement increased annually from 1987 to 1991 (Fig.3). In contrast, young adults 18 years and older in placement have fluctuated between 700 and 900 since 1987.



Child maltreatment is the major factor contributing to the opening of cases.³ Seventy-eight percent of black, 76% of Hispanic, and 64% of white children in placement in July of 1993 had their cases opened because of maltreatment. The leveling-off of the placement population in 1992 (Fig. 3) coincided with a 12% drop in children with supported investigations (Fig. 2). There was a modest increase (+2%) in the placement population in 1993 despite a 9% drop in children with supported investigations. A loss in children entering placement via a supported investigation was offset by a gain in children entering by way of a CHINS referral.

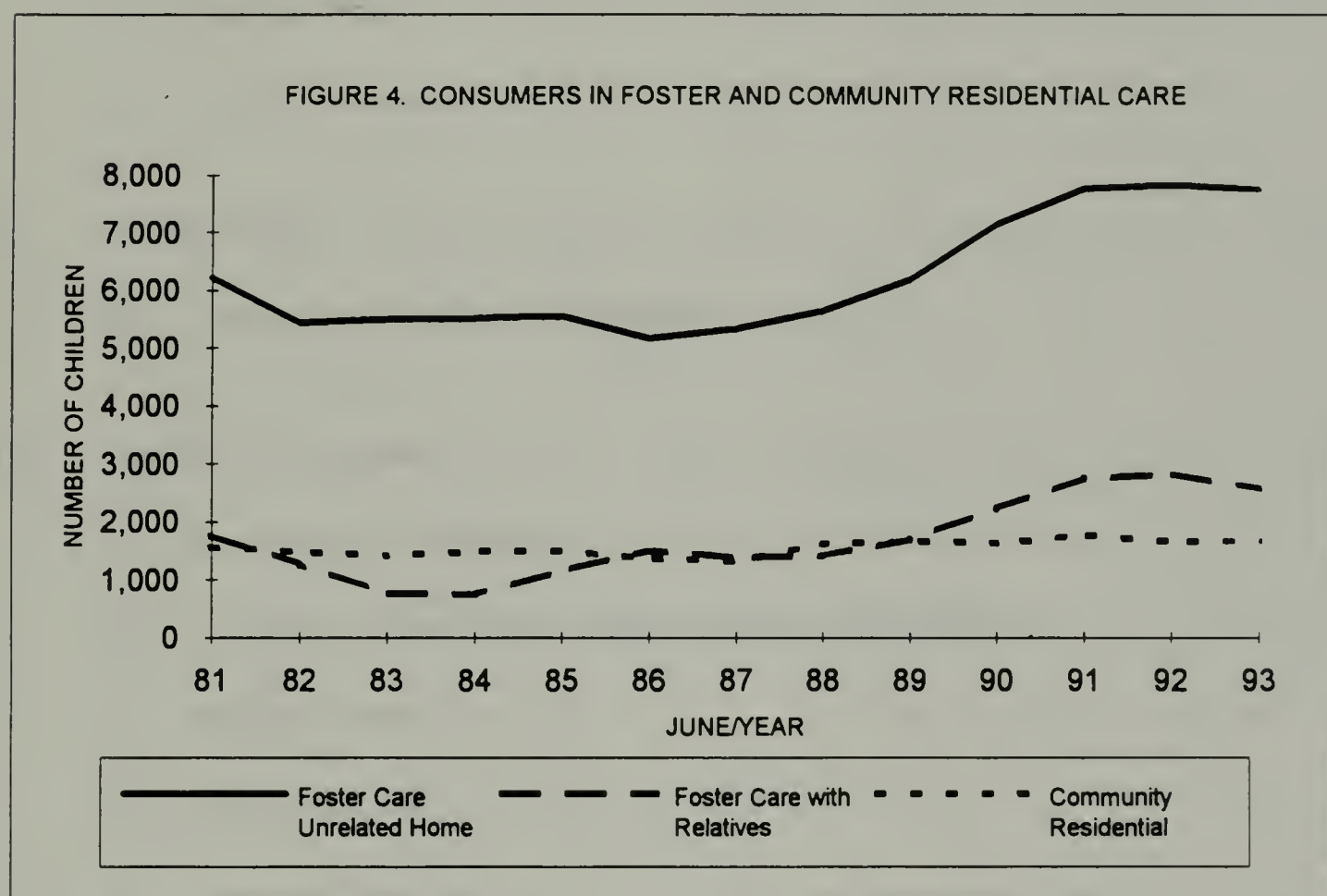
It should be noted that the median length of time in placement has been slowly rising each year: 1.5 years in 1990, 1.6 in 1991, 1.9 in 1992, and 2.1 in 1993. During this time, the median age of children has remained at 9.2-9.3 years. Although the placement population has increased, the age composition has not changed. However, the proportion of children in placement more than two years is increasing.

³ Cases are opened because of supported child maltreatment reports, CHINS (Child In Need of Services) referrals, voluntary requests for services, and other reasons such as a court order to provide services or a request on behalf of a consumer by another agency.

Consumers (Children and Young Adults) in Foster and Community Residential Care:

The two percent growth in the substitute care population from 1992 to 1993 was attributable to placements in unrelated foster homes. This increase is not evident in Fig. 4 which shows a decline in consumers residing in unrelated foster homes. The contradiction arises because of a DSS policy change. Children in the homes of relatives or unrelated foster parents who plan to adopt them, were re-categorized as being in pre-adoptive homes.⁴ This policy change contributed to the 1992-93 increase of children in pre-adoptive homes--648 children (+203%). Children in related and unrelated foster homes dropped by 506 (-5%).

Over the years, there has been little change in the community residential population, especially from 1988 to 1993 (Fig. 4).



From 1989 to 1991, the fastest growing age group in placement was children under six years old. With the stabilization of the placement population in 1992, there was little change in the number of children in each age group. In 1993, there was a small statewide decrease in children under 6 years old and a corresponding increase in 6-11 year olds and adolescents. Boston is the only region where children under six years old are the largest age group. Adolescents are still the major age group in the Western, Central, Metro, and Southeastern Regions. In the Northeastern Region the number of adolescents is approximately equal to the number of children under six years old.

⁴ In the past, the pre-adoptive home category was restricted to children placed with recruited adoptive parents. Children in the homes of relatives or unrelated foster parents who planned to adopt them were counted as residing in foster homes.

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NOTES

(1) Statistics presented in this report were compiled from data on an ASSIST (Area-based Social Services Information System Technology) extract tape created on July 23, 1993.

(2) For planning purposes, Massachusetts city and town population data from the 1990 Census have been converted to the Department of Social Services' geographic regions and areas. Appendix Table 1 lists the Massachusetts population residing in the DSS geographic regions and areas by race and Hispanic origin. Table 2 presents the same type of statistics for the Massachusetts child population (under 18 years old).

(3) As used in this report, "children" refers to DSS consumers who are under 18 years old.

(4) Foster care is a specific type of placement that includes children placed with relatives as well as unrelated foster parents. Other types of placements are: pre-adoptive home, community residence, supervised independent living, emergency shelter, and institution.

CONSUMER PROFILE

An analysis of all open cases in July of 1993 showed that 73,298 individuals were receiving services--a decrease of less than 1% from 1992. This stabilization followed an 11% drop in consumers from July 1991 to 1992. Before 1992, the consumer population had been growing annually from a low of 66,087 in July 1987 to a high of 82,993 in 1991.

Compared to last year's demographic report, the placement (substitute care) population increased by 2% to 13,311. The number of consumers in placement has been relatively stable the past two years after growing from 8,940 in July 1987 to 13,212 in 1991.

Sex and Age of Consumers

- The consumer population included 43,178 (59%) children less than 18 years old and 30,120 (41%) adults 18 years or older. Fifty-six percent of all consumers were identified as female and 43% as male. (see Fig. 5)
- Thirty-three percent of all children were adolescents (12 to 17 years old). (Fig. 5)
- The number of female children in the DSS caseload was approximately equal to the number of male children. In contrast, the ratio of female to male adults was about 2:1. (Fig. 5)
- Statewide, children accounted for 59% of the consumers receiving services. Among regions⁵, the percentage of children ranged from 55% in the Metro Region to 61% in the West. A higher percentage indicates more single-parent families in the caseload or more children per family. (see table on page 3)

⁵ Massachusetts is divided into six geographic sections in which the DSS provides services: West, Central, Northeast, Metro, Southeast, and Boston.

FIGURE 5. SEX AND AGE OF CONSUMERS
JULY 1993

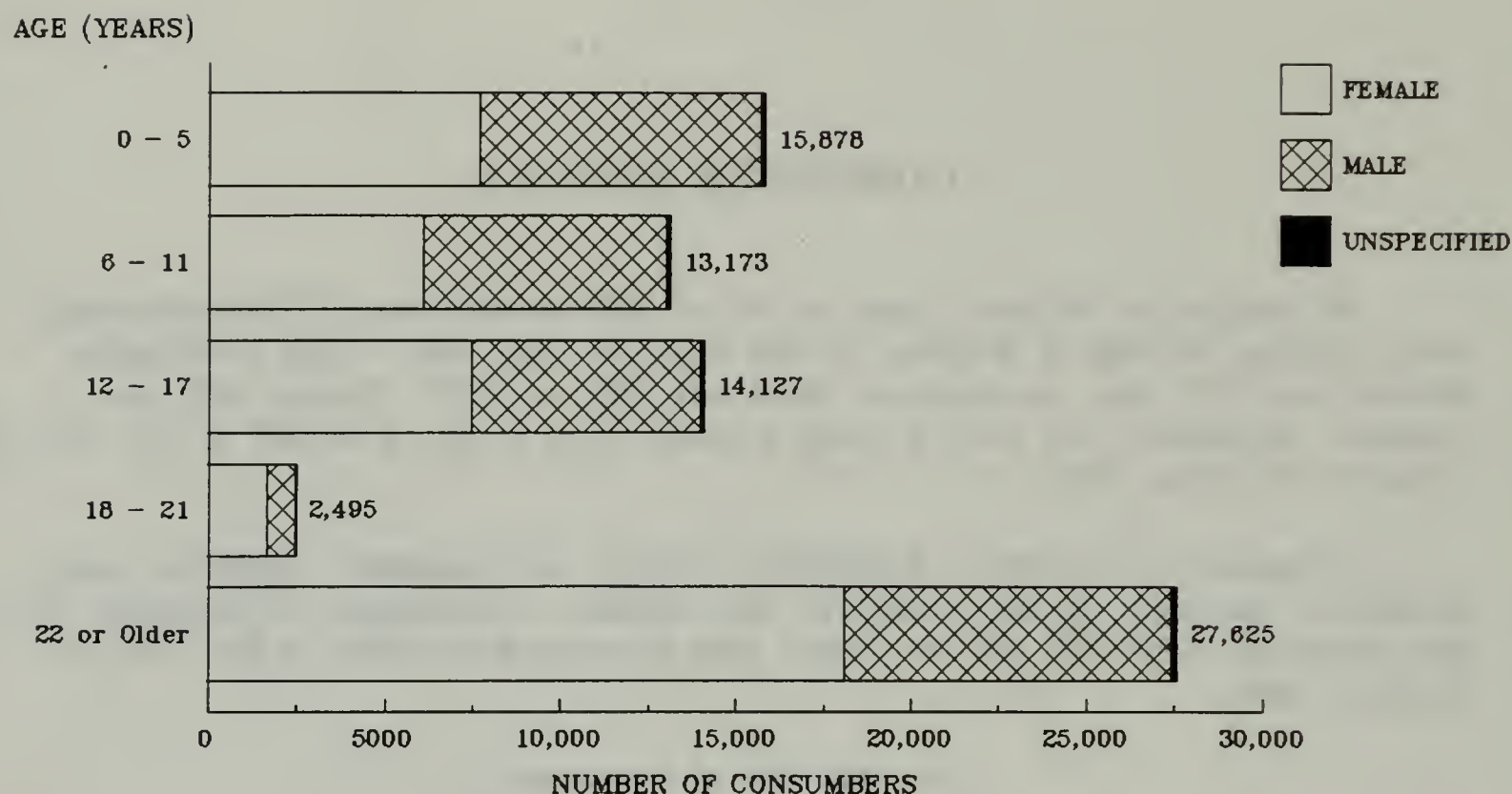
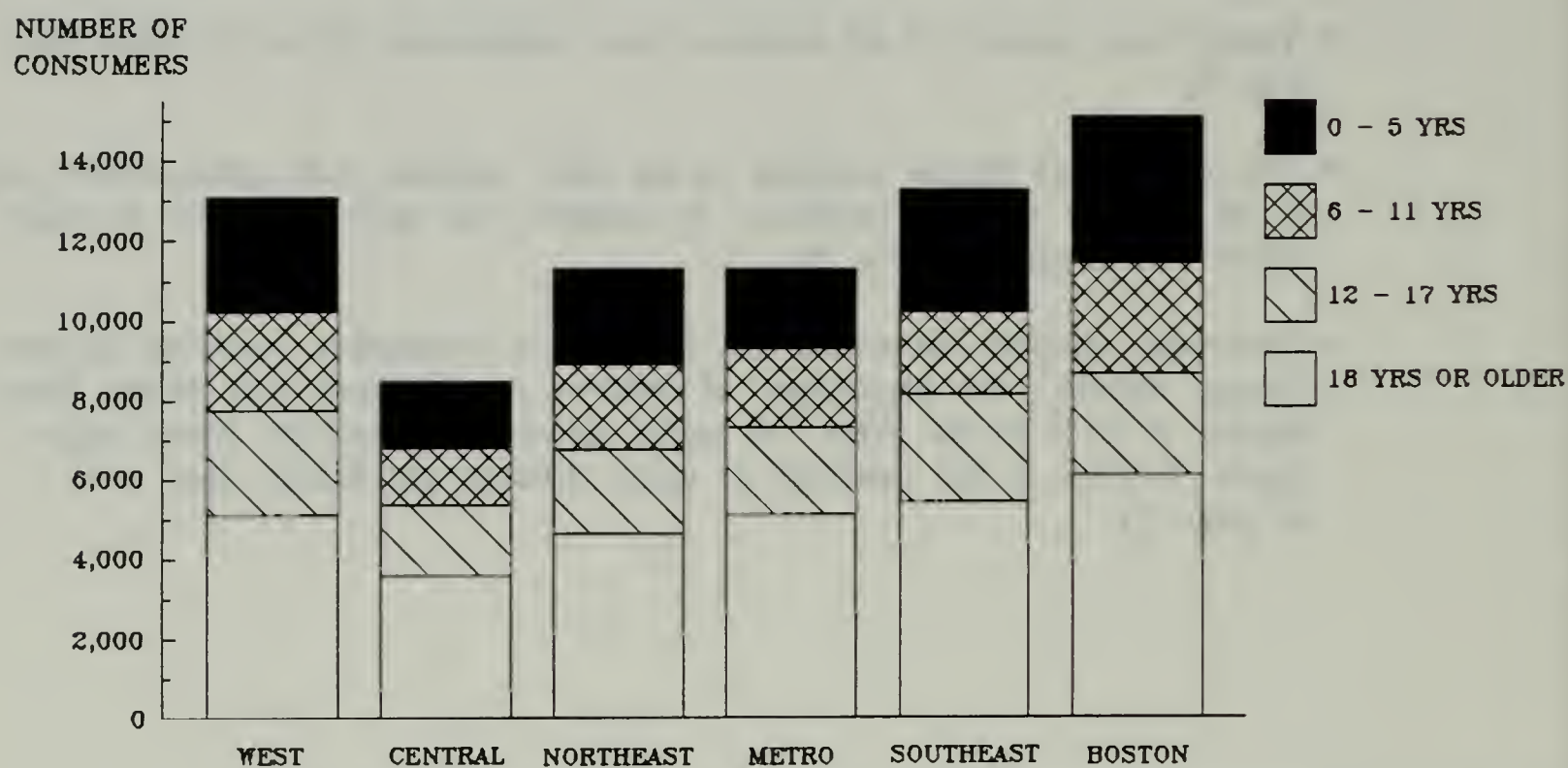


FIGURE 6. AGE OF CONSUMERS
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

NOTE: Graph does not include 842 consumers (adoption cases) served through Central Office contracts who may reside in any region.

Consumer Profile

- Compared to the other regions, the Western Region has a higher number of children per family (also note the lower proportion of one-child families in the table below). Boston has a higher proportion of single mothers. In contrast, the Metro and Central Regions have a smaller proportion of single mothers and a lower number of children per family.

INDICATORS	REGIONS					
	W	C	NE	M	SE	B
% of Children ⁶ in Caseload	61%	57%	59%	55%	59%	60%
# of Children per Family ⁷	2.22	1.93	2.09	1.91	2.08	2.02
% of Families with one child ⁸	36%	46%	42%	48%	42%	47%
% of Single Mothers ⁹	68%	64%	67%	62%	65%	82%

- The Boston Region provided services to 21% of the statewide consumer population. Proportions for the remaining regions were: 18% West, 18% Southeast, 15% Northeast, 15% Metro, and 12% Central. (Fig. 6)

⁶ Individuals under 18 years old

⁷ Includes only those children who have an open case status.

⁸ see footnotes #6 and #7

⁹ The number of single mothers (never married, separated, divorced, widowed) divided by the total number of mothers. Mothers with an unspecified marital status are excluded from the calculation.

Consumer Profile

Placement and Not in Placement

- There were 13,311 consumers in placement statewide: 25% in the Boston Region, 17% in the West, 16% in the Southeast, 15% in the Northeast, 11% in Metro, and 10% in Central. An additional 5% were categorized as Central Office placements.
- Consumers in placement amounted to 18% of the statewide caseload. Regionally, the placement population as a proportion of the caseload ranged from 13% in Metro to 22% in Boston. The proportion of consumers in placement at the other regions was: 18% West, 17% Northeast, 16% Central, and 16% Southeast.
- Twenty-three percent of all consumers in placement on July 23, 1993 had been in continuous placement for more than 4 years, 30% for >2 to 4 years, 20% for >1 to 2 years, and 28% for 1 year or less (Fig. 7A). Since last year, there has been a 3% increase in children in care for more than four years.
- Forty-three percent of 0-5 year olds, 63% of 6-11 year olds, 50% of 12-17 year olds, and 84% of consumers 18 years or older were in placement for more than two years (Fig. 7B).
- A consumer may have been in one or more placement locations during this continuous time in placement. Forty percent of the 13,311 consumers had not left their initial placement location, 24% had changed locations once, and 36% had changed locations two or more times.

Ethnicity/Race

- White consumers predominated in all regions of the state except Boston where minorities accounted for 76% of all consumers. (Fig. 8A)
- Black consumers were the largest minority group in the Boston Region--52% of all consumers. (Figs. 8A and 8B)
- Hispanics were the largest minority group in the West (24% of all consumers), Central (14%), and Northeast (23%). (Figs. 8A and 8B)
- The "Other" category was most significant in the Southeast. The largest ethnic groups in this category were Portuguese (4% of all consumers) and Cape Verdeans (4%). (Figs. 8A and 8B)
- The Asian group of consumers was small, but most evident in the Northeast and Boston. This was primarily due to the presence of Cambodians in the Northeast, and Vietnamese as well as Cambodians in Boston. (Fig. 8B)

FIGURE 7A. AGE GROUP BY CONTINUOUS
TIME IN PLACEMENT
JULY 1993

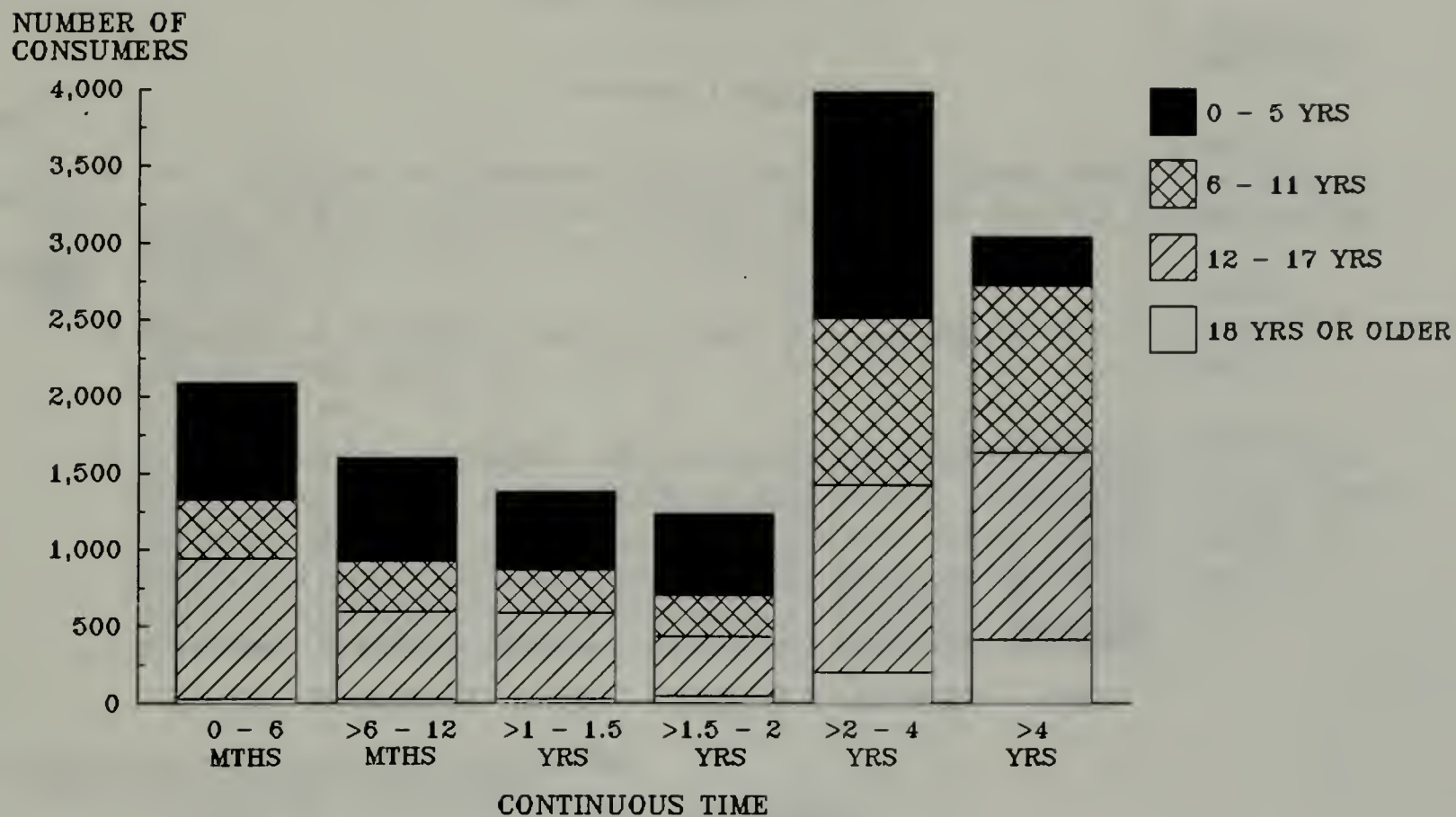


FIGURE 7B. CONTINUOUS TIME IN PLACEMENT
BY AGE GROUP

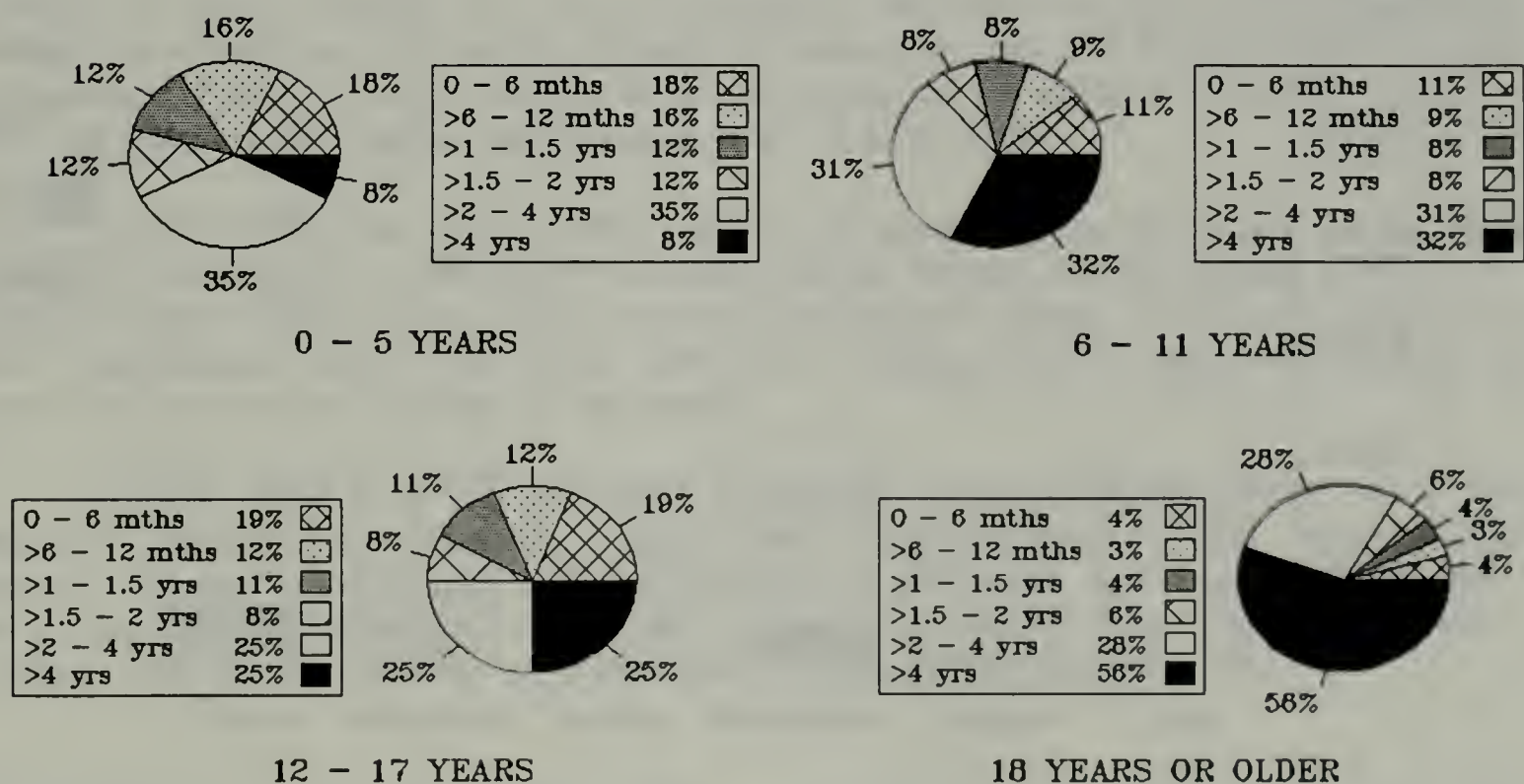
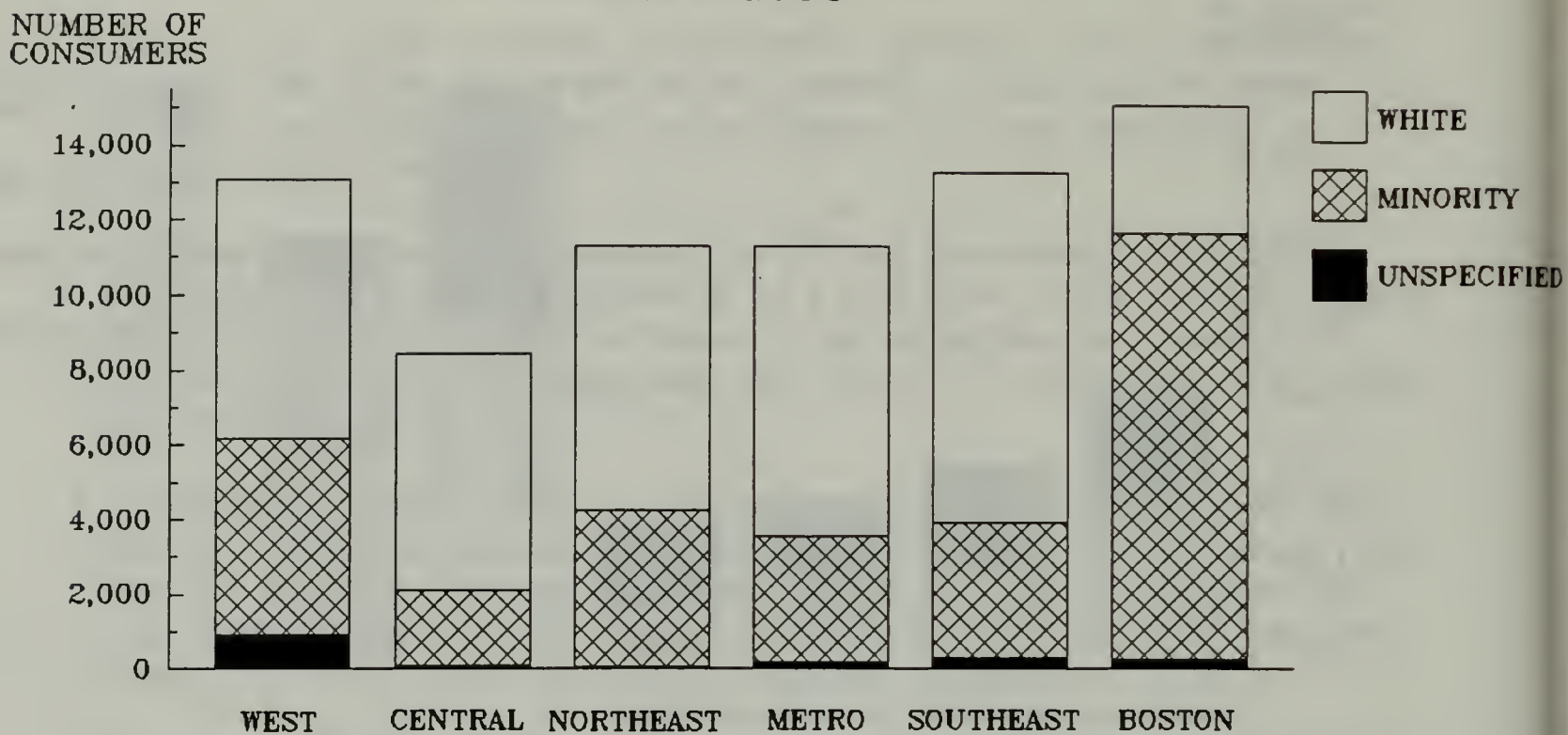
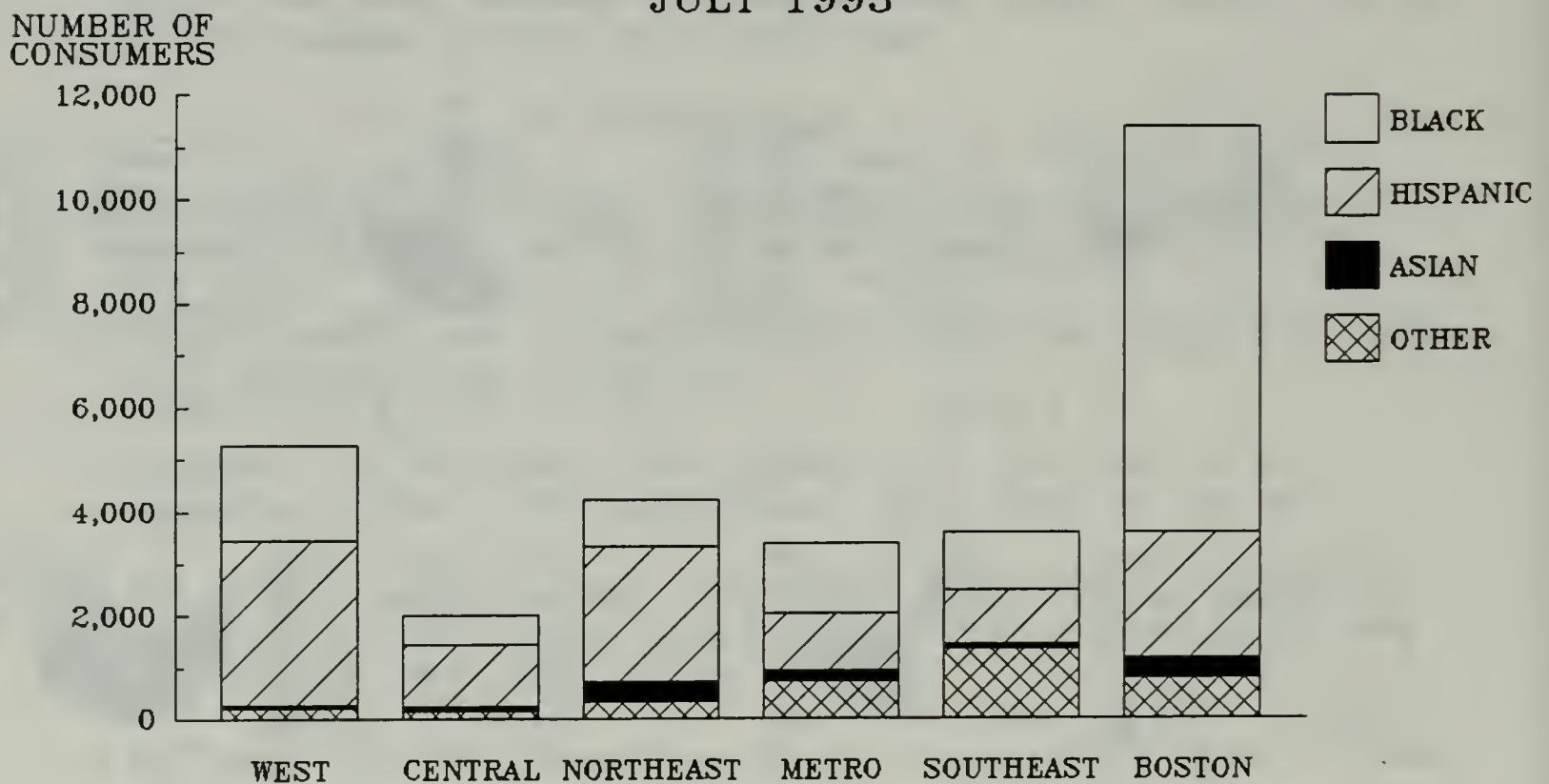


FIGURE 8A. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMERS
JULY 1993



NOTE: Graph does not include 842 consumers (adoption cases) served through Central Office contracts who may reside in any region.

FIGURE 8B. ETHNICITY OF MINORITY CONSUMERS
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

NOTE: Graph does not include 527 consumers (adoption cases) served through Central Office contracts who may reside in any region.

Consumer Profile

Preferred Language

- The proportion of consumers with a preferred language other than English ranged from 7% in both the Southeast and Central Regions to 15% in the Northeast. (Fig. 9A)
- Spanish was the major language other than English in all six regions of the state. (Fig. 9B)
- Other preferred languages used by significant numbers of consumers were: Khmer (Cambodian) in the Northeast and Boston, Portuguese in Metro and Southeast, Haitian Creole in Metro and Boston, Cape Verdean Creole in Boston and Southeast, and Vietnamese in Boston. (Fig. 9B)

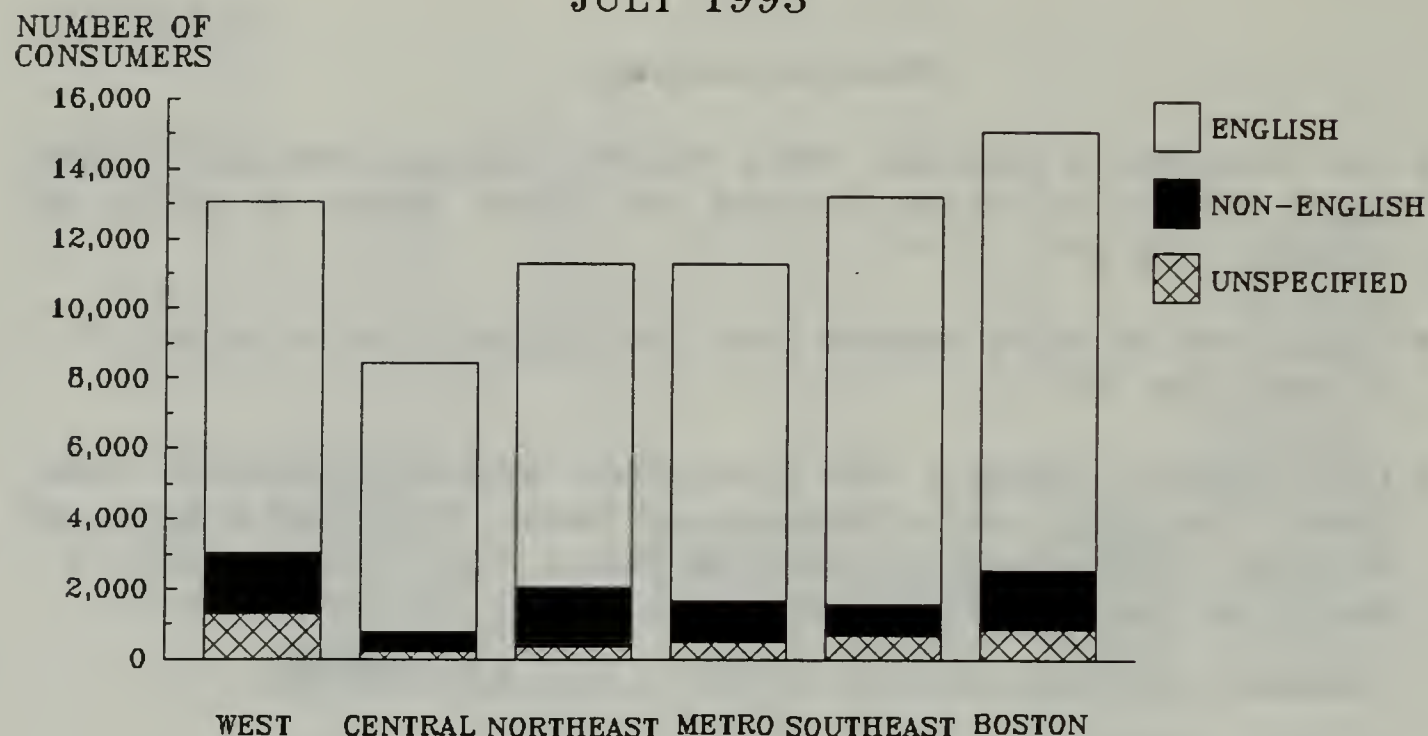
CHILD PROFILE

There were 43,178 children under 18 years old with an "open" case status in July of 1993. They represented 59% of all active consumers. Seventy-one percent (30,601) of these children were not in placement and 29% (12,577) were. Compared to last year, there are 266 more children in placement and 208 fewer children not in placement. Children in placement, as a proportion of all children receiving services, has stabilized at 29% after slowly rising from 21% in 1984.

At the DSS Area Office level, children in placement as proportion of the child caseload was highest at the Solomon Carter Fuller Mental Health Center (43%), Morton Street (37%), Lynn (36%), and Allston/Dimock Street (35%) sites (Fig. 10). The Framingham (19%), Fall River (19%), and Waltham (21%) Area Offices had the lowest proportions of children in placement.

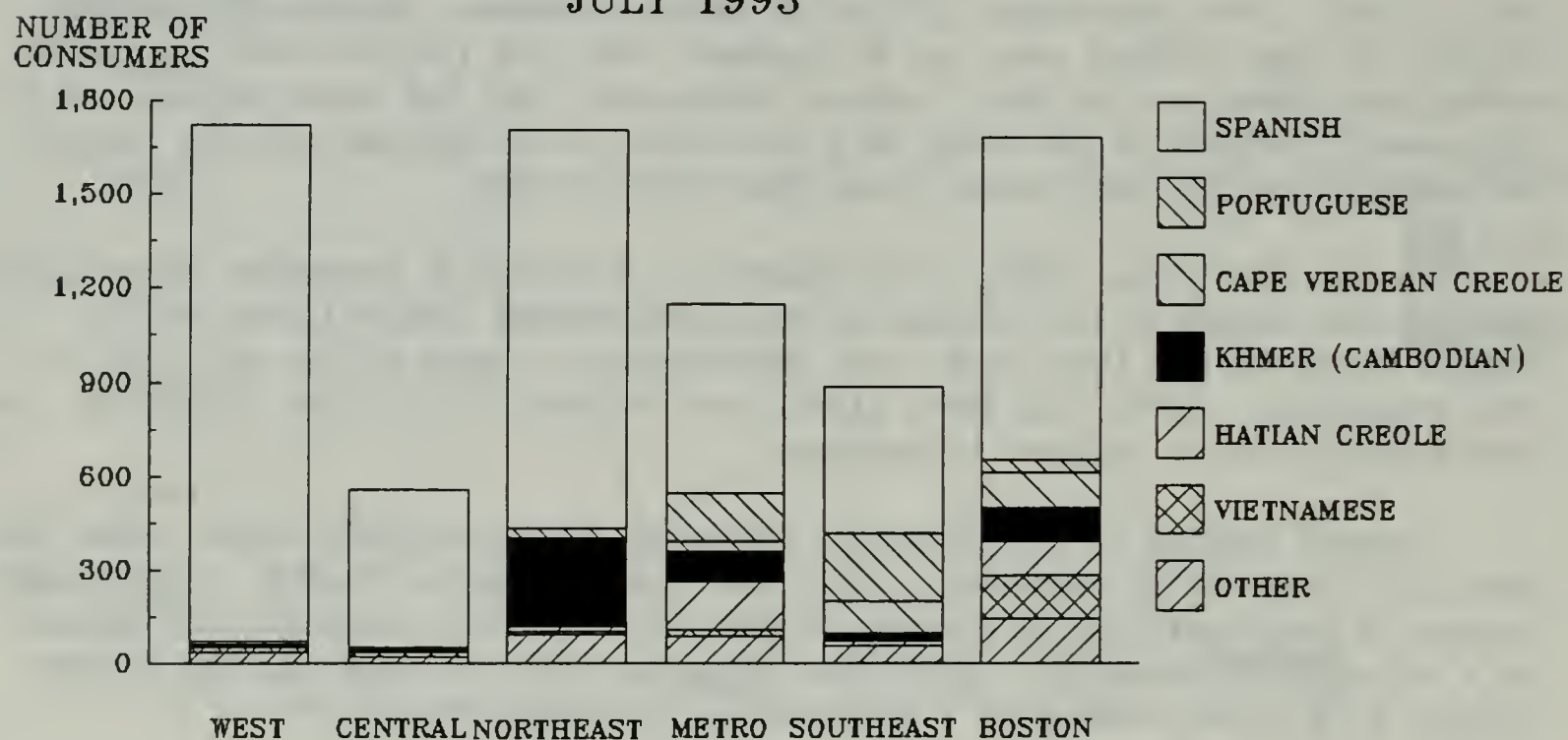
Annual changes in the placement population by race/ethnicity were: white (less than 1%), black (-1%), Hispanic (+14%), and "other" minority (+4%). Seventy-eight percent of black and 76% of Hispanic children in placement had their cases opened by a supported maltreatment report. In comparison, 64% of white children in care became DSS clients because of a supported maltreatment report.

FIGURE 9A. PREFERRED LANGUAGE OF CONSUMERS
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
JULY 1993



NOTE: Graph does not include 842 consumers (adoption cases) served through Central Office contracts who may reside in any region.

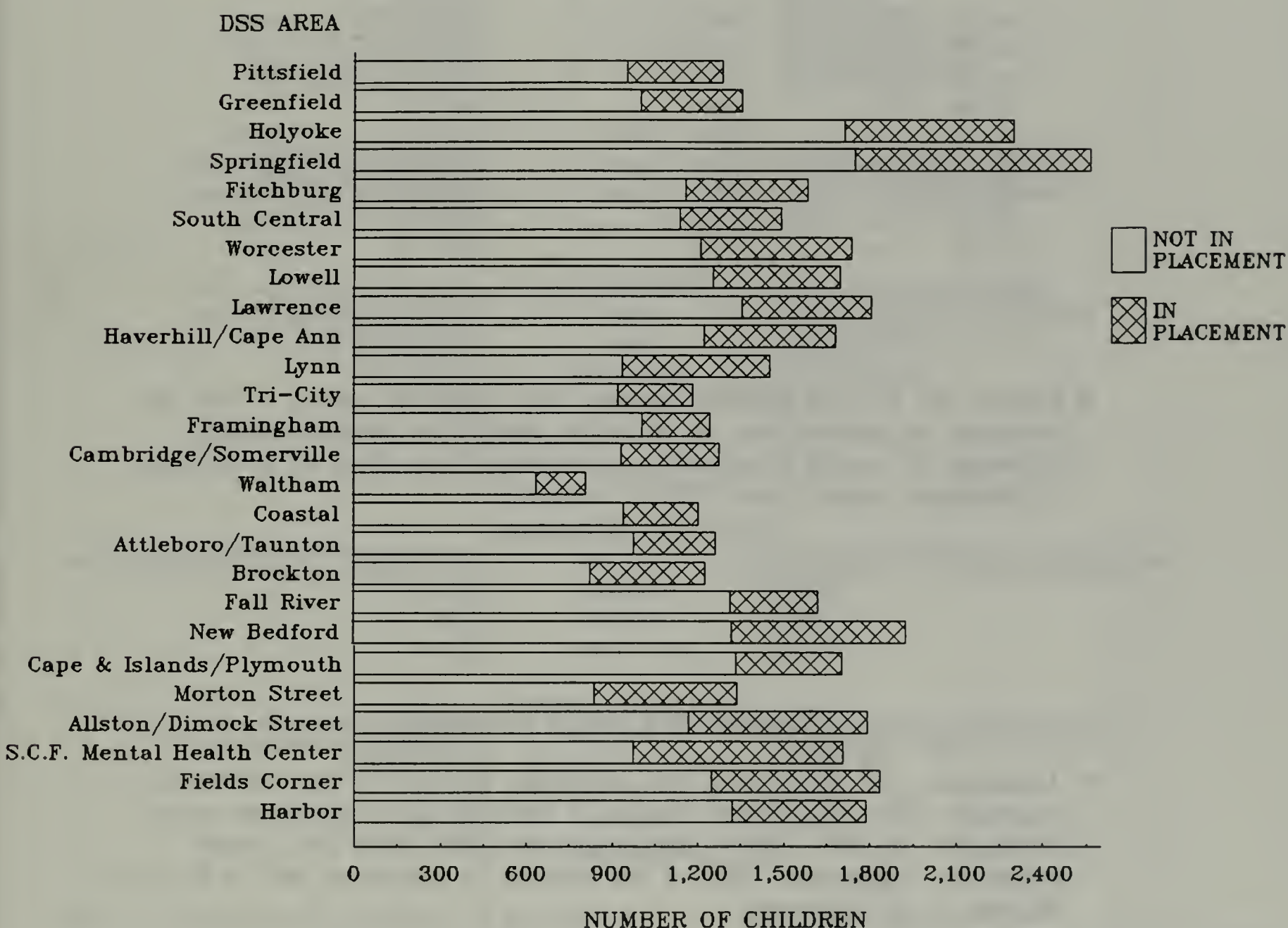
FIGURE 9B. PREFERRED LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

NOTE: Graph does not include 138 consumers (adoption cases) served through Central Office contracts who may reside in any region.

FIGURE 10. CHILD CASELOAD: CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT
AND NOT IN PLACEMENT BY DSS AREA OFFICE
JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

Child Profile

From 1984 to 1992, fluctuations in the placement population have coincided with changes in maltreatment reporting. Annual changes in the number of children reported and in placement are:

		Maltreatment			
FY	Reported	Supported ¹⁰	June	In Placement	
84-85	+20%	+22%	1984-85	+11%	
85-86	+1%	+3%	1985-86	+3%	
86-87	+4%	-5%	1986-87	+1%	
87-88	+11%	+5%	1987-88	+7%	
88-89	+14%	+11%	1988-89	+10%	
89-90	+16%	+25%	1989-90	+15%	
90-91	+13%	+17%	1990-91	+13%	
91-92	+5%	-12%	1991-92	0%	
92-93	-2%	-9%	1992-93	+3%	

- Despite the drop in children reported and supported during FY'93, the placement population rose by 3%. The decline in children entering placement by way of a supported investigation was offset by an increase in placement entries via a CHINS referral.

Placement and Not in Placement

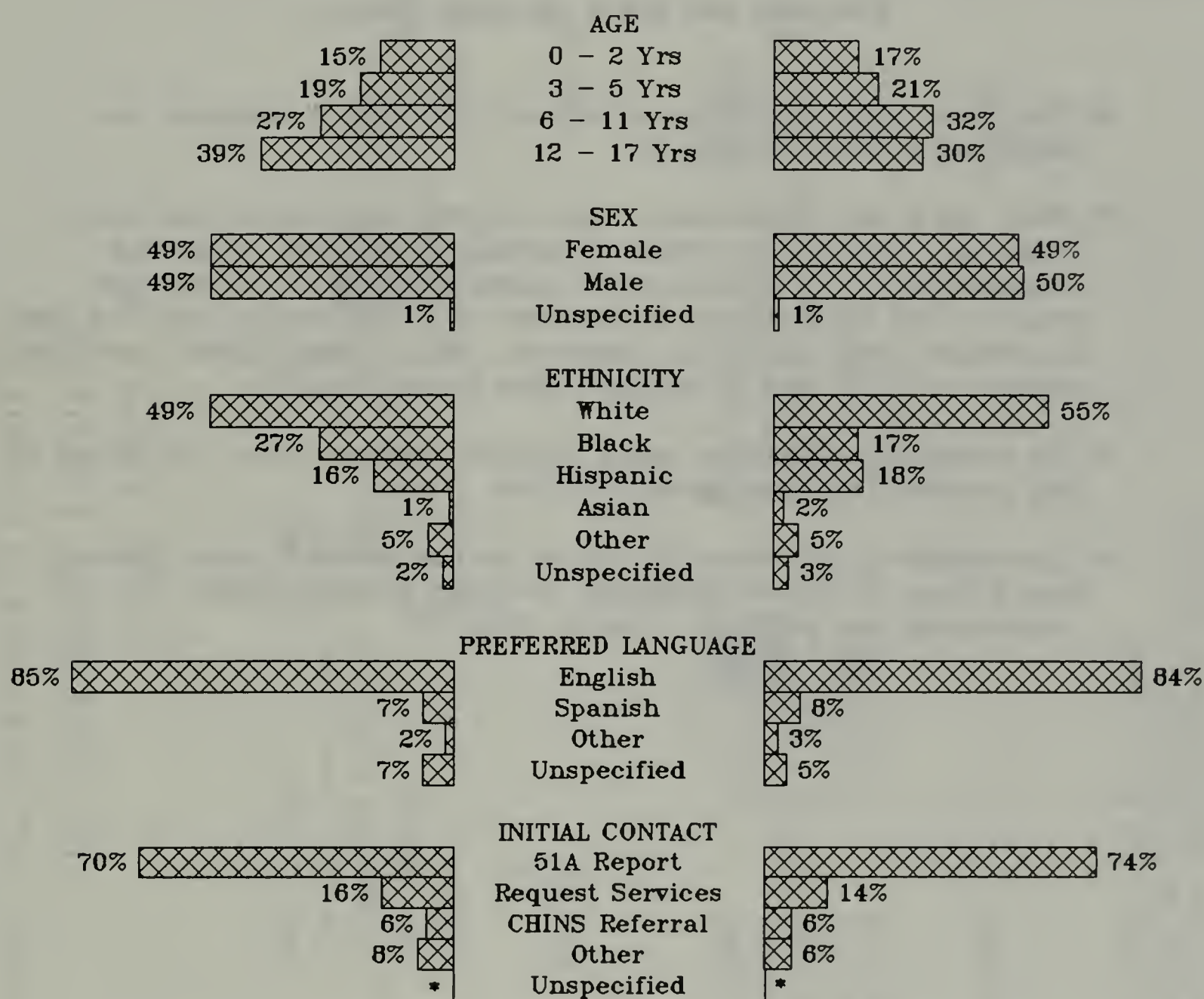
- Adolescents (12 to 17 years old) accounted for 39% of the children in placement (Fig. 11). Thirty percent of children not in placement were adolescents in 1993. These proportions are down from 1987, when adolescents represented 48% of the children in placement and 34% of the children not in placement.

¹⁰ The number of children with supported investigations.

**FIGURE 11. CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN
IN PLACEMENT AND NOT IN PLACEMENT
JULY 1993**

12,577 IN PLACEMENT

30,601 NOT IN PLACEMENT



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

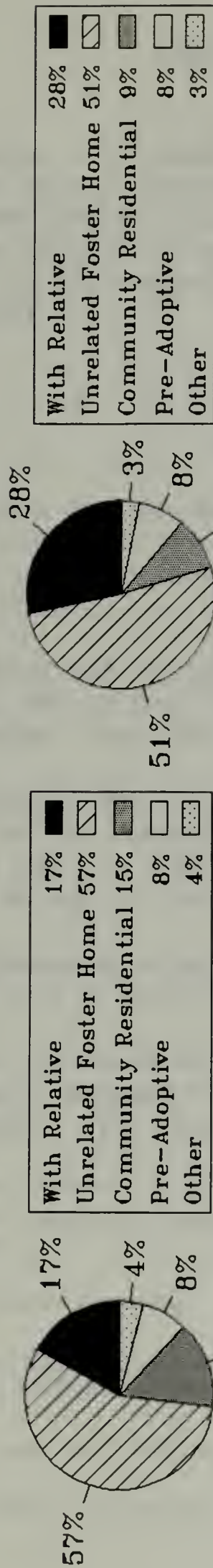
* = less than 1%
Note: Percentages may not equal 100%
due to rounding-off.

Placement and Not in Placement (cont'd)

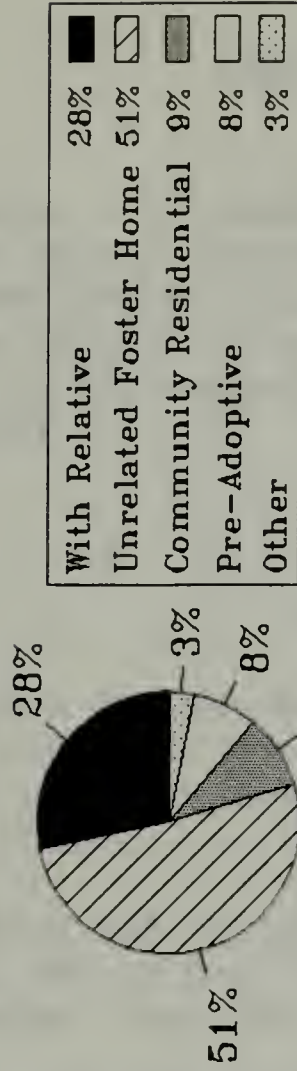
- There were equal proportions of boys and girls in both placement and nonplacement locations. (Fig. 11)
- There was a larger proportion of black children in placement than not in placement. Twenty-seven percent of children in placement were black compared to 17% of children not in placement (Fig. 11). Twenty-eight percent of the black children in placement were with relatives and 51% were in unrelated foster homes. In comparison, 16% of white children were with relatives and 57% were in unrelated foster homes (Fig. 12).
- The distribution of children among preferred language groups was similar for both placement and nonplacement children. (Fig. 11)
- The distribution of children by "reasons for case opening" (initial contacts) showed there was not an appreciable difference between children in nonplacement and placement locations. (Fig. 11)

FIGURE 12. ETHNICITY/RACE AND LOCATION OF CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT

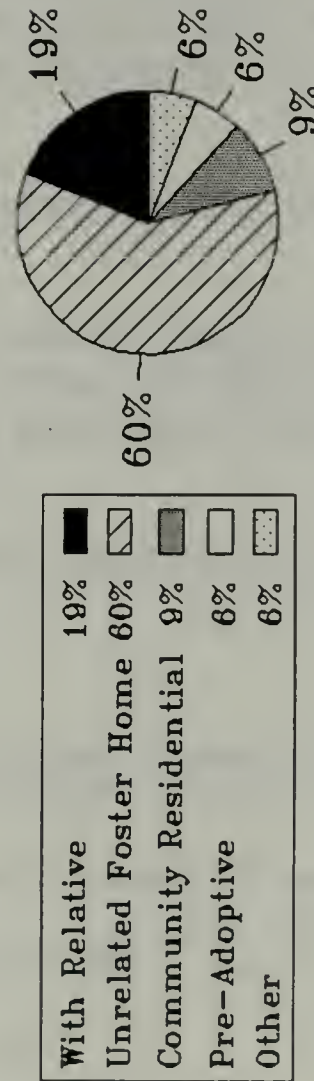
JULY 1993



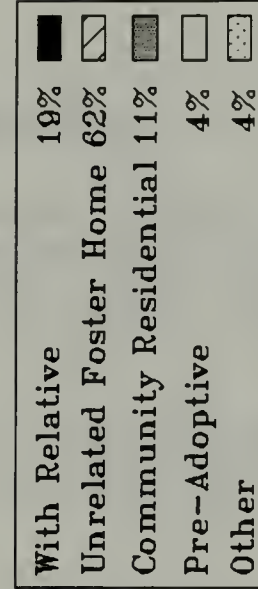
WHITE



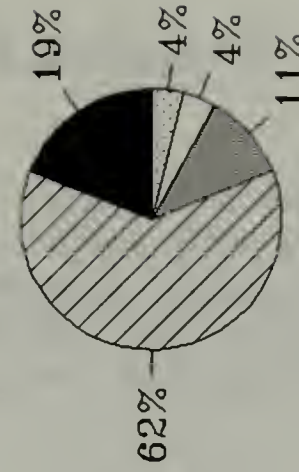
BLACK



HISPANIC



OTHER



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Service
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT

There were 12,577 children less than 18 years old in substitute care. They were distributed among placement locations as follows: 57% in unrelated foster homes (FOS), 20% with relatives (REL), 12% in community residences (CRS)¹¹, 8% in pre-adoptive homes (ADP)¹², 1% in institutions (INST)¹³, 1% in supervised independent living (TIL)¹⁴, 1% in emergency shelters (SHL), and 2% were "on the run" from placement (RUN).

Sex and Age of Children

- Placement locations that showed the largest deviation from an equal number of boys and girls were community residences (60% male), institutions (57% male), supervised independent living (65% female), and "children on the run" (60% female).
- The proportion of children in placement who were girls differed among age groups: 49% of 0 to 5 year olds, 45% of 6 to 11 year olds, and 53% of adolescents were female.
- The median age¹⁵ of children in placement dropped from 10.7 in 1988 to 9.2 years in 1992. During the same period, median time in care went from 1.5 to 1.9 years. In 1993, the median age and median time in care rose to 9.3 years old and 2.1 years, respectively.
- The proportion of adolescents in placement declined from 53% in 1985 to a stable level of 38-39% in 1990-93.
- Figure 13A shows that from 1987 to 1990 the number of younger children in placement increased at a considerably faster rate than the number of adolescents. The disparity was not as great from 1990 to 1991.

¹¹ Examples are community-based residential facilities, residential (special education) schools, diagnostic centers, and staff secure facilities.

¹² Pending finalization (legalization).

¹³ Examples are medical or psychiatric hospital, pediatric nursing home, and chronic care hospital. Temporary medical or psychiatric care in a hospital setting for 30 days or less is not considered a placement.

¹⁴ Older adolescents may be placed in a supervised independent living program, for example, a supervised apartment.

¹⁵ Half the children are younger than the median age and half are older.

FIGURE 13A. AGE OF CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT
JULY 1987 - 1993

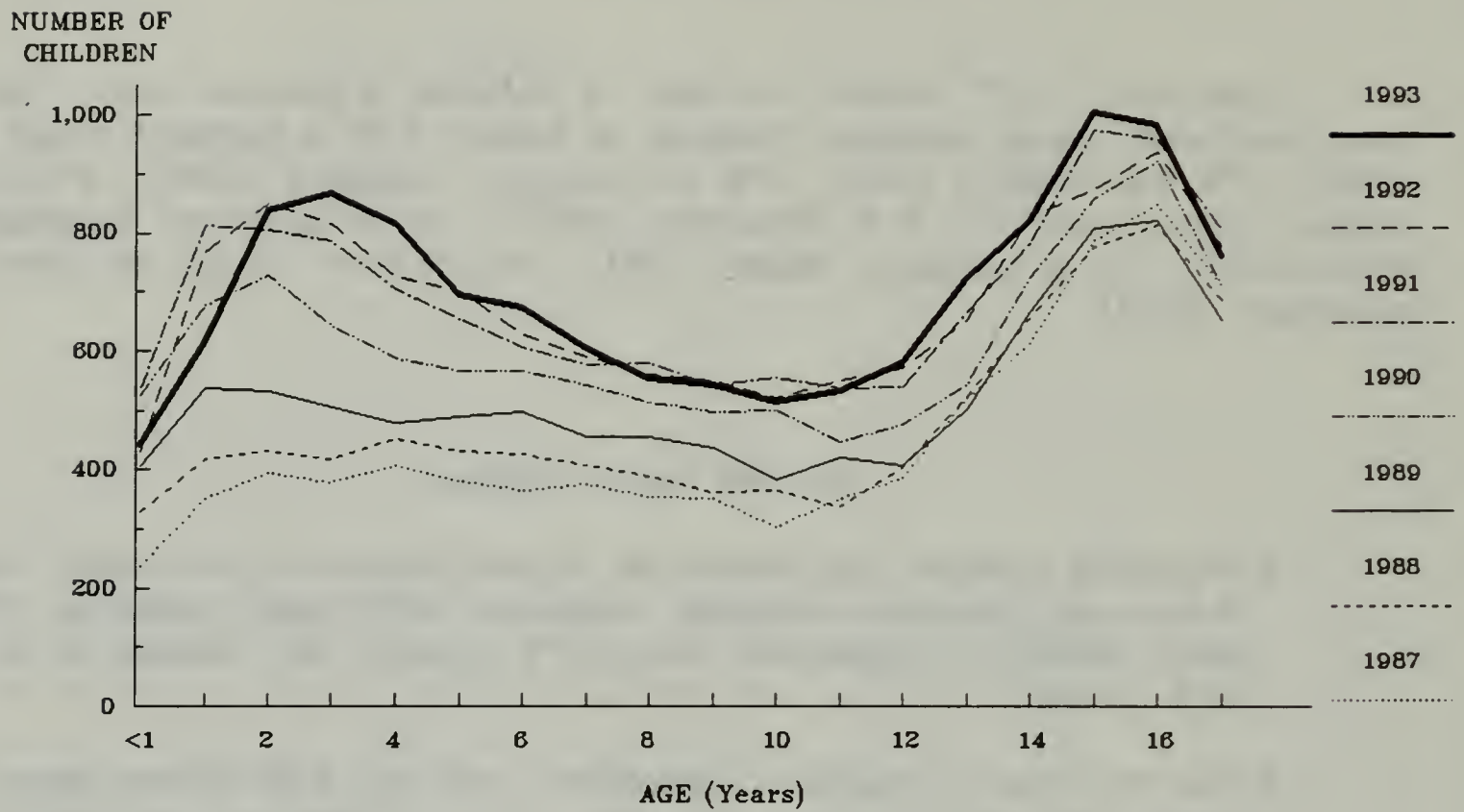
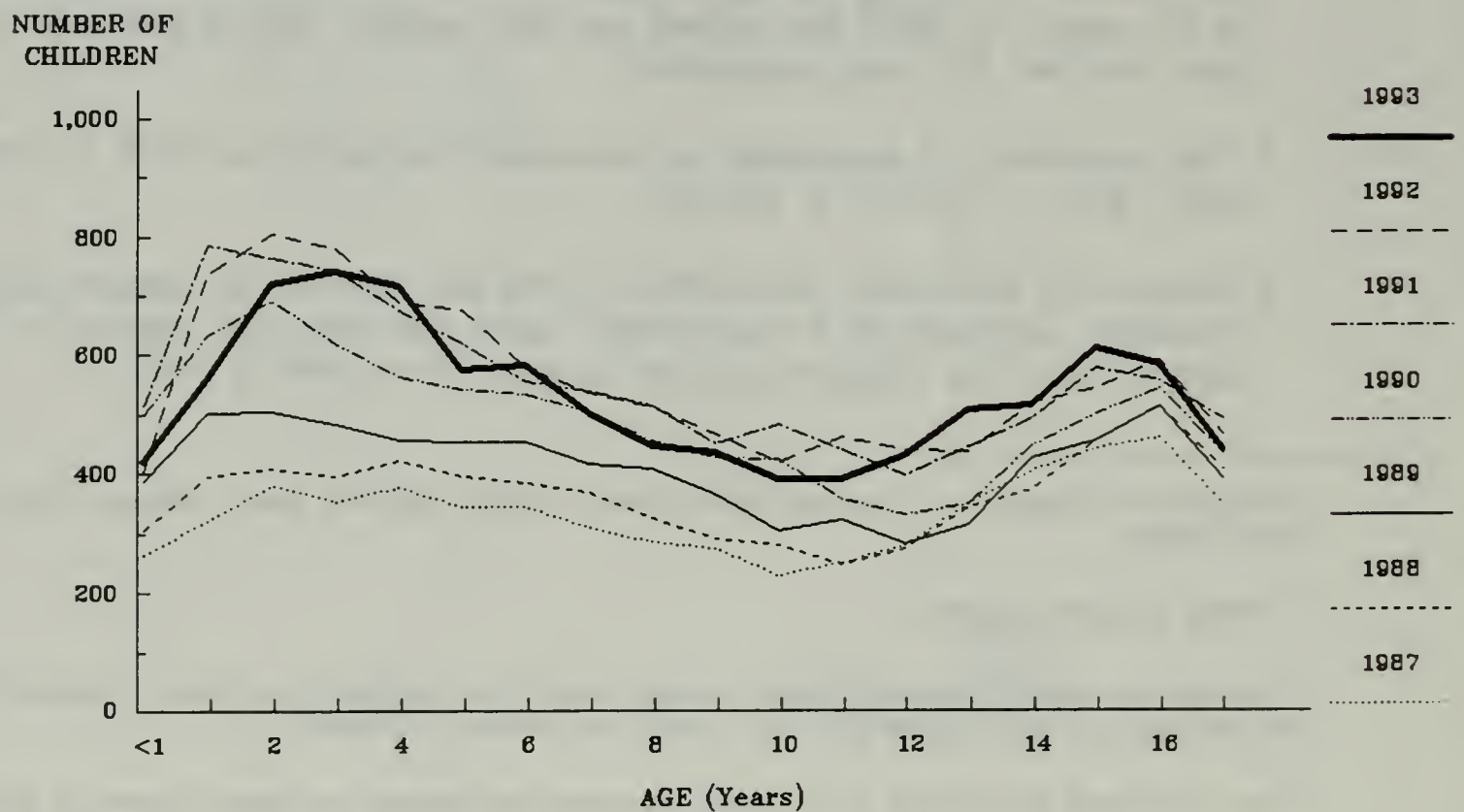


FIGURE 13B. AGE OF CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE
JULY 1987 - 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

Age of Children (cont'd)

- From 1991 to 1993, there has been a noticeable drop in children under two years old and a rise in three- and four-year-old children (Fig. 13A).
- Figure 13B displays only those children in foster care with relatives or unrelated foster parents. Compared to Figure 13A, the portion of the age curve that spans the adolescent years (12 to 17 years) is appreciably reduced. This occurs because a significant number of adolescents are in community residential or other placements not included in Figure 13B (see Fig. 15 for other placement locations).
- The median age of children in foster care ranged from 6.6 years in Boston to 9.7 years in the West. The amount of time spent in placement was lowest in the West and Metro Regions--a median time of 1.5 years. The age statistics in the table below (and on page 17) are a reflection of the age distributions in Fig. 14.

Foster Children

Median Age (yrs)	Median Time in Placement (yrs)	Geographic Region
9.7	1.5	West
9.1	1.6	Central
7.2	1.6	Northeast
9.0	1.5	Metro
8.8	1.6	Southeast
6.6	2.2	Boston
7.9	1.9	State

Children in Placement

Age of Children (cont'd)

- Compared to the other regions, Boston has the highest number and proportion of children under six years old in placement. Conversely, Metro and Central have the lowest number and proportion of children under six years old. (see table below and Fig. 14)
- Boston was also conspicuous for its lower proportion of adolescents while the Metro, Central, Western, and Southeastern Regions were characterized by higher proportions of adolescents (table below and Fig. 14).

<u>Placement Children</u> ¹⁶							
Geographic Region	Age Group (yrs)						TOTAL
	0 - 5		6 - 11		12 - 17		
West	716	33%	550	25%	937	43%	2203
Central	395	30%	323	25%	590	45%	1308
Northeast	673	36%	531	28%	675	36%	1879
Metro	410	29%	361	26%	638	45%	1409
Southeast	641	32%	498	25%	869	43%	2008
Boston	1239	39%	891	28%	1021	32%	3151

- Adolescents were most prominent in community residential placements. Younger children were predominant in pre-adoptive (ADP) and foster homes (REL, FOS). (Fig. 15)

Length of Time Foster Children Spent in Placement

- The majority of black children in foster care live in the Boston Region where the length of stay in placement is longer for all children, regardless of ethnicity/race (2.2 years median time in placement, see table on page 16). Please note that length of stay represents continuous time in placement of children in foster care (with relatives or unrelated foster parents) in July 1993. These children may have been in other types of placement prior to foster care.

¹⁶ Table does not include 619 children categorized as DSS Central Office placements.

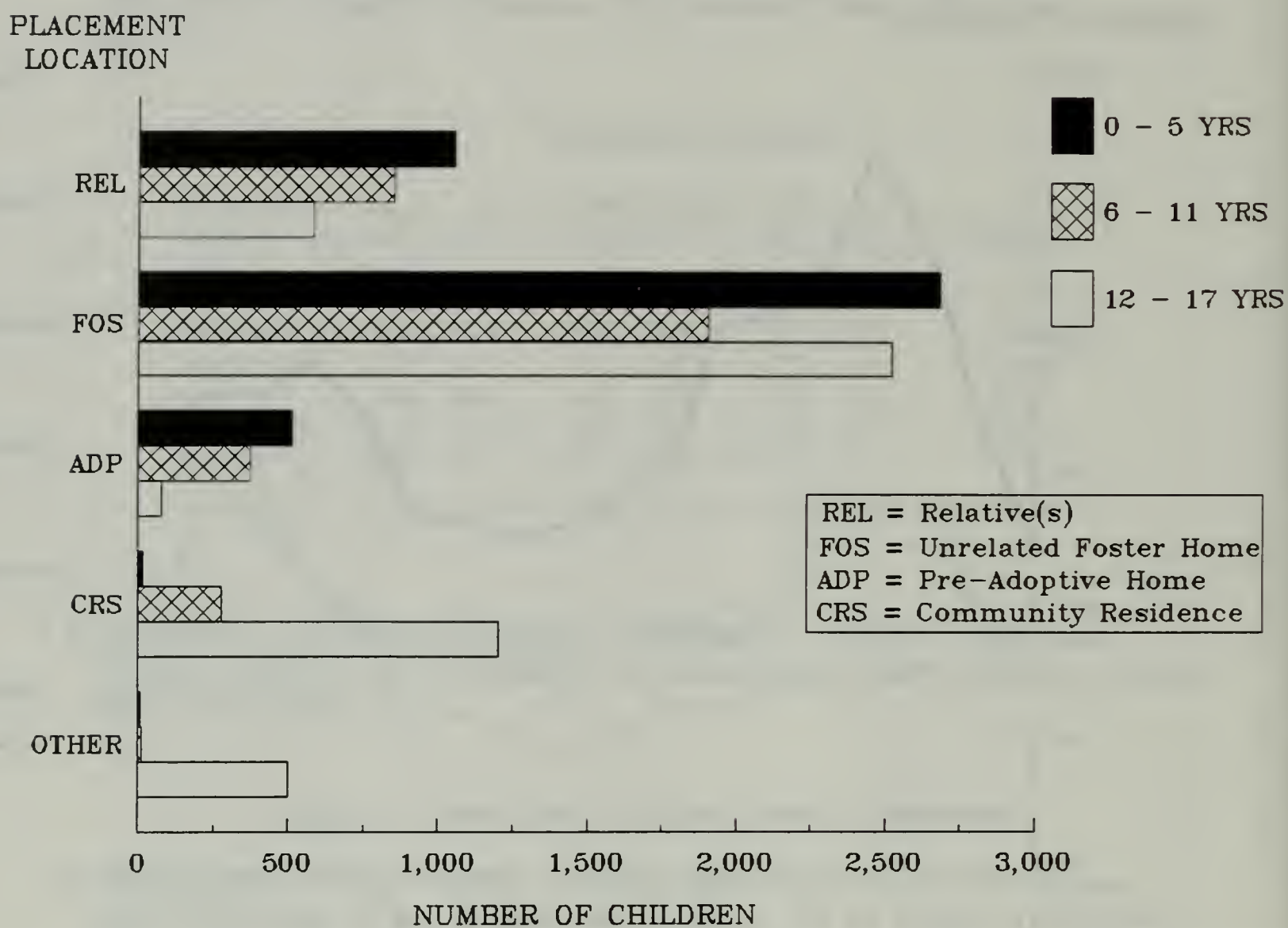
FIGURE 14. AGE OF CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION
JULY 1993

NUMBER OF CHILDREN



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

FIGURE 15. CHILDREN: AGE AND TYPE OF PLACEMENT
JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

NOTE: "OTHER" includes supervised independent living, emergency shelter, institution, and on the run from placement.

Length of Time in Placement (cont'd)

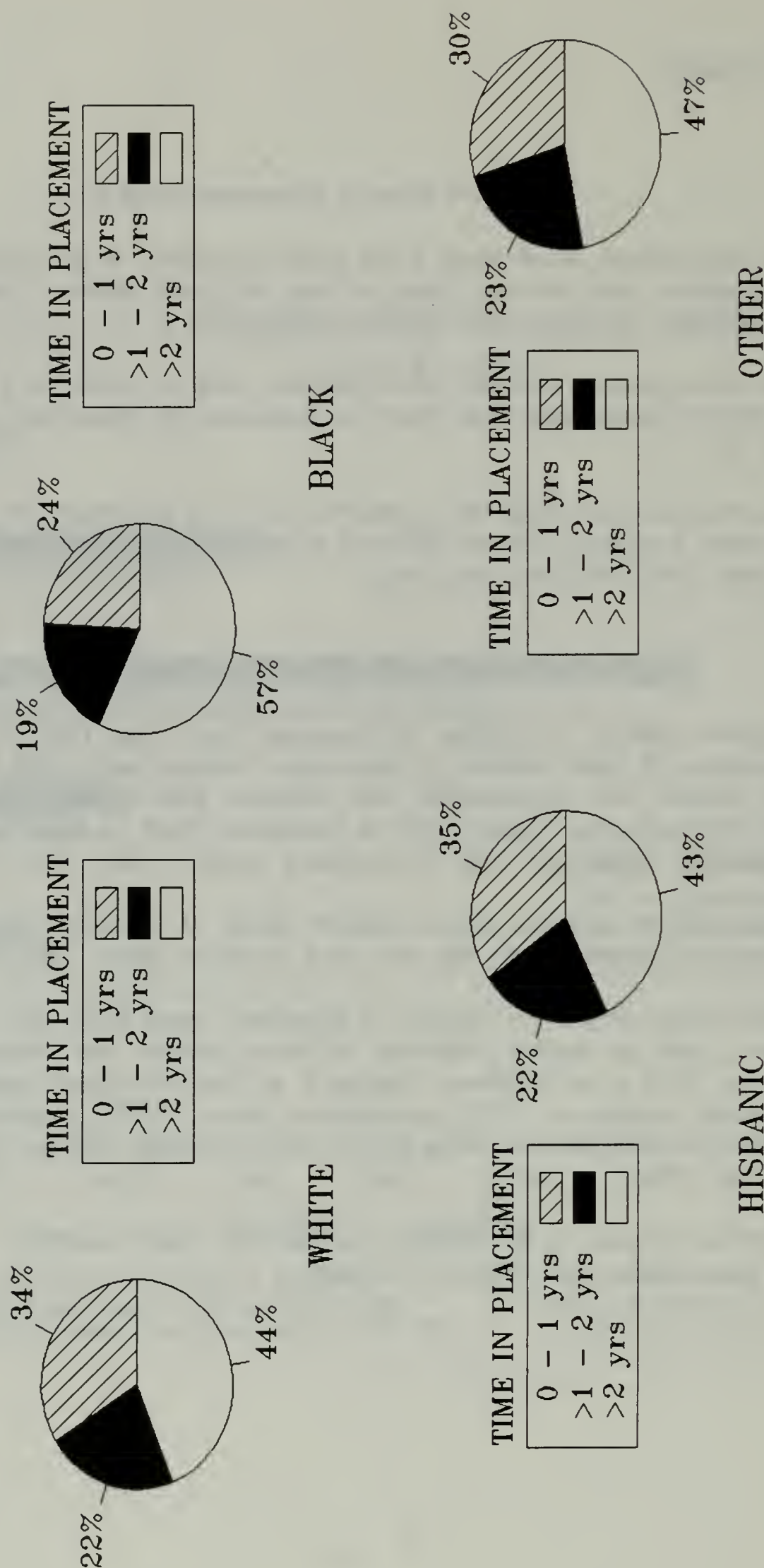
- Sixty-one percent of all black foster children resided in the Boston Region. Consequently, the statewide length of stay for black children (Fig. 16) was approximately the same as the Boston Region.
- Fifty-seven percent of black foster children, 44% of white, 43% of Hispanic, and 47% of other minorities were in placement for more than two years (Fig. 16).
- The proportion of black foster children (57%) in placement for more than two years is slightly reduced (54%) if children placed with relatives are excluded from the foster care total.

Ethnicity/Race

- Forty-nine percent of children in placement were white (Fig. 11). The proportions of white children by placement location were: 50% in unrelated foster homes, 39% in placement with relatives, 61% in community residences, 49% in pre-adoptive homes, 66% in institutions, 62% in transition to independent living, and 60% in emergency shelters (Fig. 17A).
- Black children were the largest minority group at all major placement locations. Hispanics were the next most prevalent group. (Fig. 17B)
- Twenty-seven percent of children in placement were black (Fig. 11). The location with the highest proportion of black children was placements with relatives (39% of all children), compared to unrelated foster homes (25%), community residences (20%), pre-adoptive homes (30%), institutions (19%), transition to independent living (18%), and emergency shelters (21%). (Figs. 17A and 17B)
- Forty-four percent of the children "on the run" from placement were white, 20% were black, and 29% were Hispanic.

FIGURE 16. CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE: ETHNICITY \ RACE
AND LENGTH OF TIME IN PLACEMENT

JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Service
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

FIGURE 17A. WHITE AND MINORITY CHILDREN
TYPE OF PLACEMENT
JULY 1993

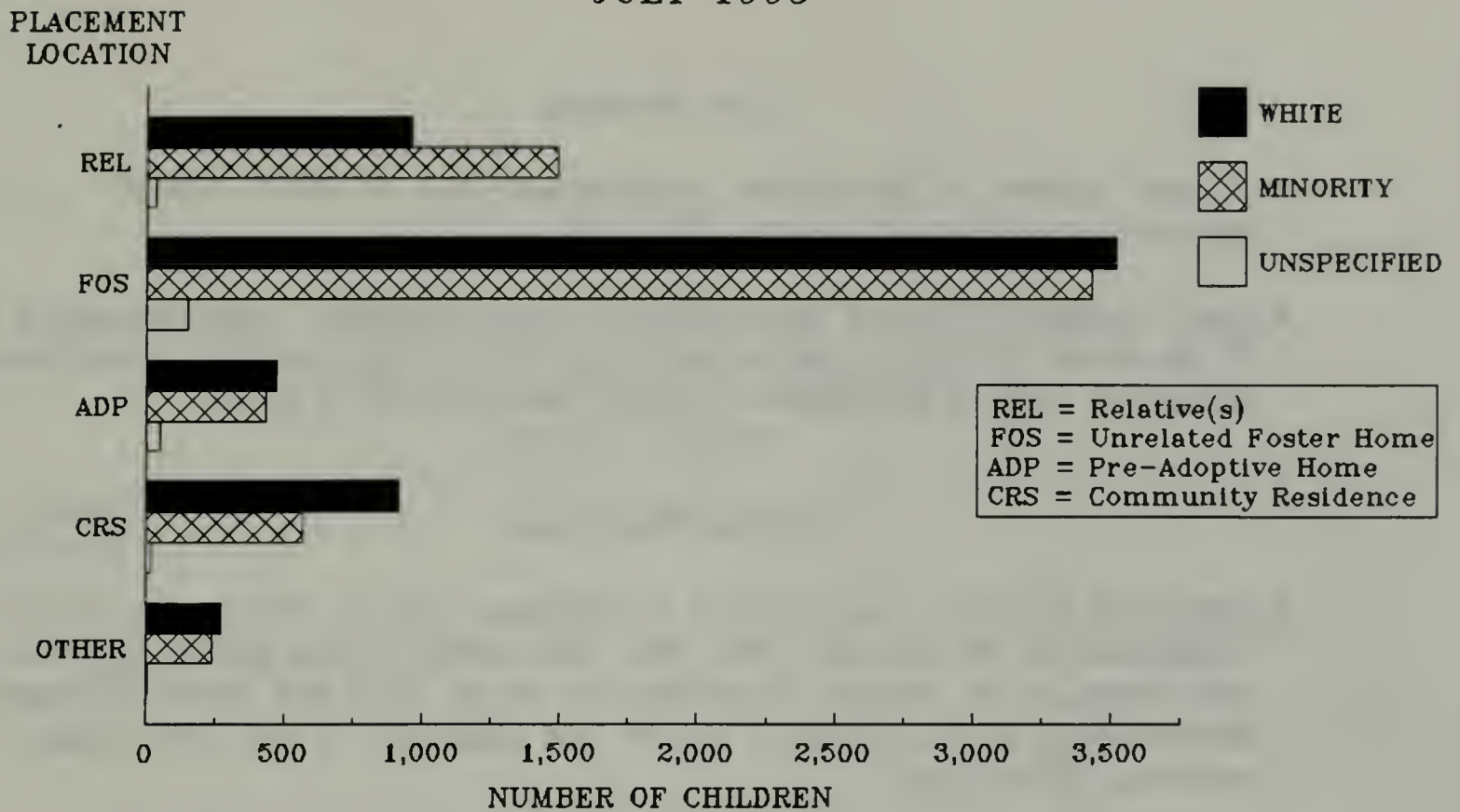
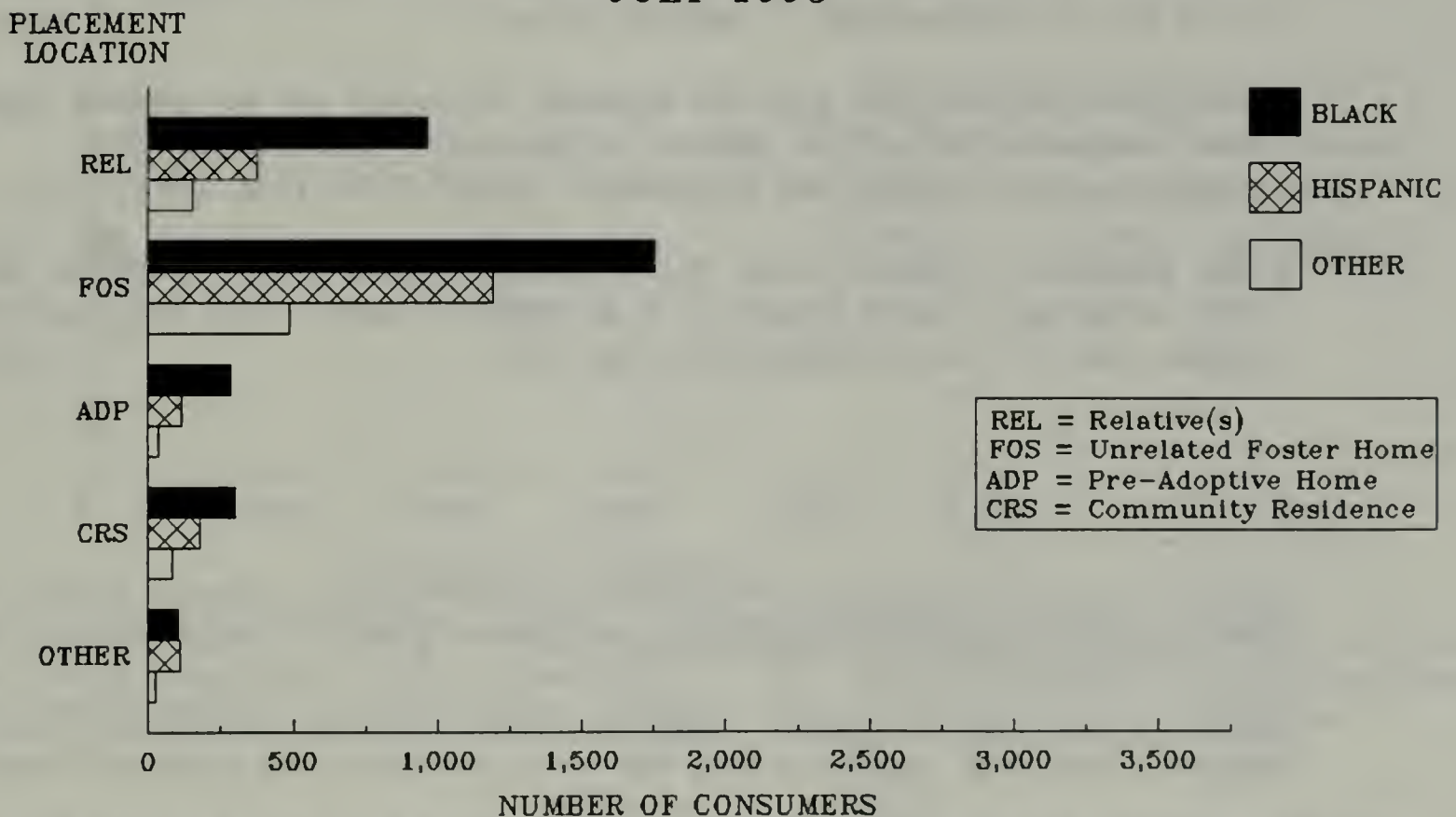


FIGURE 17B ETHNICITY OF MINORITY CHILDREN
TYPE OF PLACEMENT
JULY 1993



Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

NOTE: 'OTHER' includes supervised independent living, emergency shelter, institution, and on the run from placement.

Case Opening

- Seventy percent of all children in placement had an initial contact¹⁷ via a supported maltreatment report. (Fig. 11)
- Case opening by way of abuse/neglect reports exceeded other categories at all placement locations, and ranged from 51% of the children in emergency shelters to 81% of the children placed with relatives (Fig. 18).

Service Plan Goal

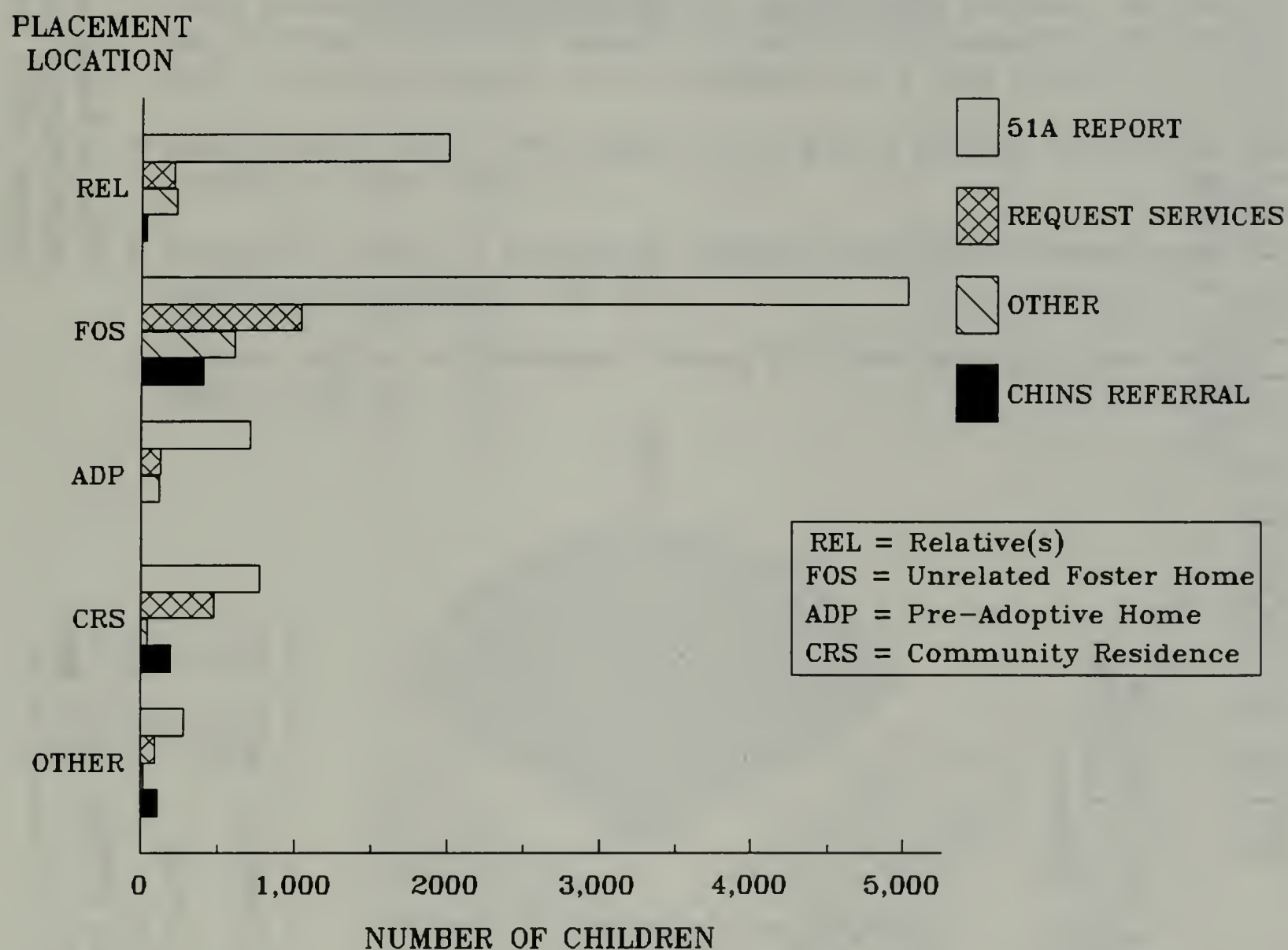
- Forty-four percent of all children in placement had a service plan goal of "strengthen the family unit" (Fig. 19). The intent of this goal is to return a child home to the family. Re-unification of the child and family is dependent on the ability of the family to provide the child with a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.
- Fifty-three percent of all children in placement could not be returned home (Fig. 19). Alternative service plan goals are selected when continued efforts to "strengthen the family unit" during 12 to 18 months have not alleviated the problems that existed at the initial family assessment. The child would still be at risk of maltreatment if returned home.
- Alternative service plan goals for children who could not be returned home were: adoption (34% of all children in placement), guardianship (6%), supportive living¹⁸ (8%), and independent living¹⁹ (5%) (Fig. 19).
- The placement locations of the 4,244 children with a goal of adoption were: 53% in unrelated foster homes, 22% in relatives' homes, 21% in pre-adoptive homes, and 4% in other locations (Fig. 19).

¹⁷ The reason for the most recent case opening. REQUEST FOR SERVICES includes the categories REQUEST FOR SERVICES, REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES, and FORMAL APPLICATION (Fig. 11). Cases are also opened by a SUPPORTED 51A REPORT or a CHINS REFERRAL.

¹⁸ Supportive living is primarily for handicapped or special needs children whose custody will be transferred to the Department of Mental Health, Department of Mental Retardation, or another adult service agency under Chapter 688.

¹⁹ Living independently is used to prepare an adolescent for young adulthood and teach him/her daily living skills to enable her/him to live interdependently in the community.

FIGURE 18. CHILDREN: TYPE OF PLACEMENT AND
TYPE OF INITIAL CONTACT
JULY 1993

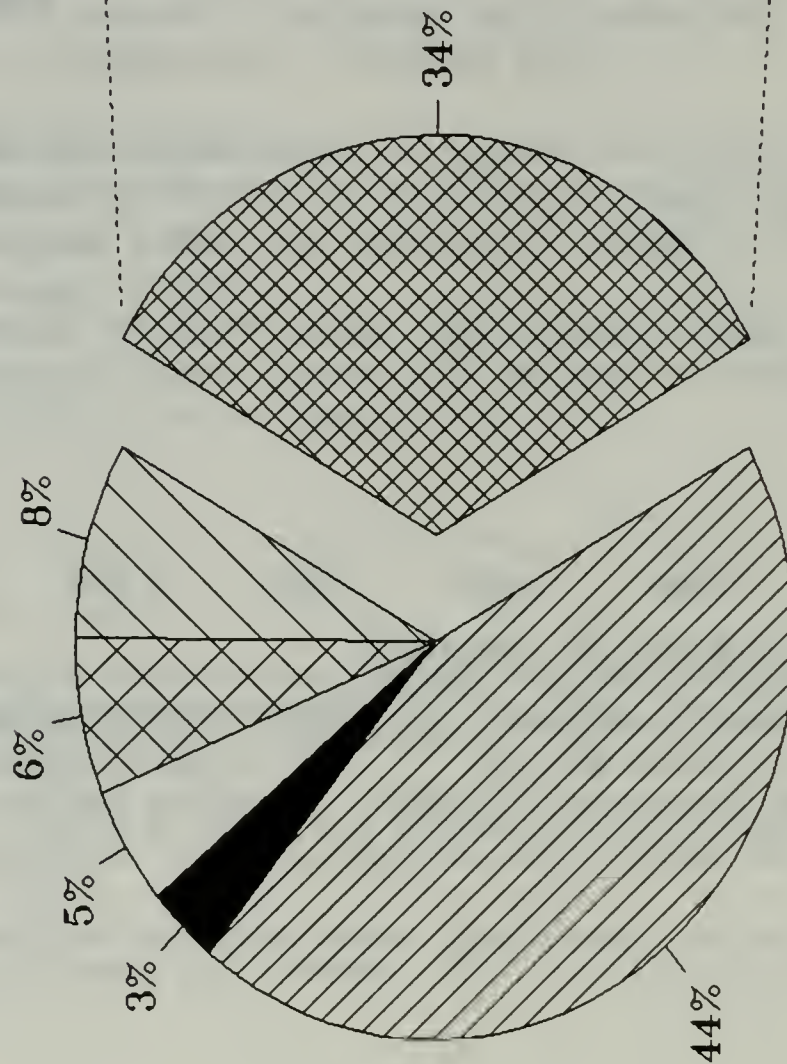


Office of Management, Planning & Analysis
Massachusetts Department of Social Services
Source: ASSIST Extract Tape (Run-Date: 7/23/93)

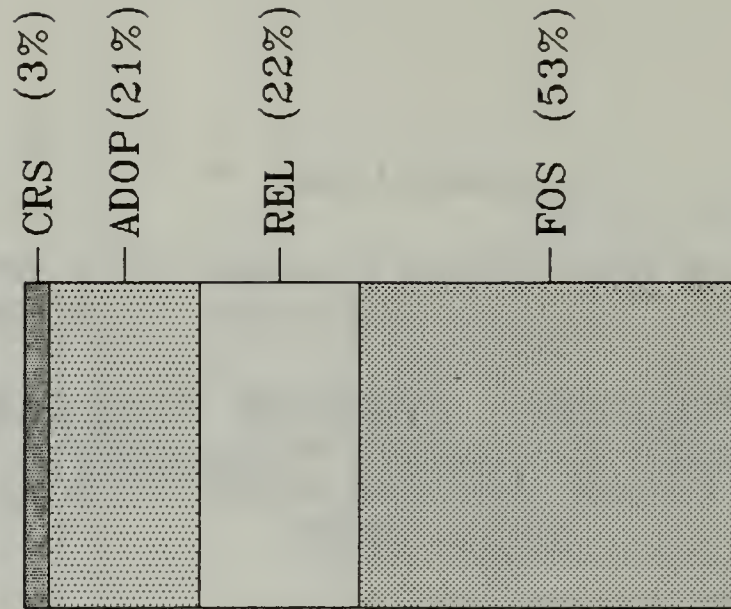
NOTE: 'OTHER' includes supervised independent living, emergency shelter, institution, and on the run from placement.

FIGURE 19. PLACEMENT LOCATION OF CHILDREN
WITH A SERVICE PLAN GOAL OF ADOPTION
JULY 1993

SERVICE PLAN GOALS OF
ALL CHILDREN IN PLACEMENT
(12,577 Children)



PLACEMENT LOCATION
(4,244 Children)



Service Plan Goal (cont'd)

- Fifty-percent of the children with adoption goals were five years old or younger, 40% were six to eleven years old, and 10% were adolescents (Fig. 20).
- The ethnic/racial breakdown of children with adoption goals was: 43% white, 34% black, 15% Hispanic, and 6% other minorities (Fig. 20).
- Thirty percent of children with adoption goals were in placement for more than four years (Fig. 20). Another 46% had been in continuous care for 2-4 years. Twenty-four percent were in placement for 2 years or less.
- Eighty percent of the 4,244 children with a goal of adoption were not in pre-adoptive homes (Fig. 21).
- Twenty-one percent of the children waiting for pre-adoptive homes were legally free for adoption²⁰ (Fig. 21).
- Of those children in pre-adoptive homes, 60% were not legally free for adoption (Fig. 21).

²⁰ Free for adoption under Chapter 210 of the Massachusetts General Law.

FIGURE 20. AGE, ETHNICITY/RACE, AND LENGTH OF TIME
IN PLACEMENT FOR CHILDREN
WITH A SERVICE PLAN OF ADOPTION (JULY 1993)

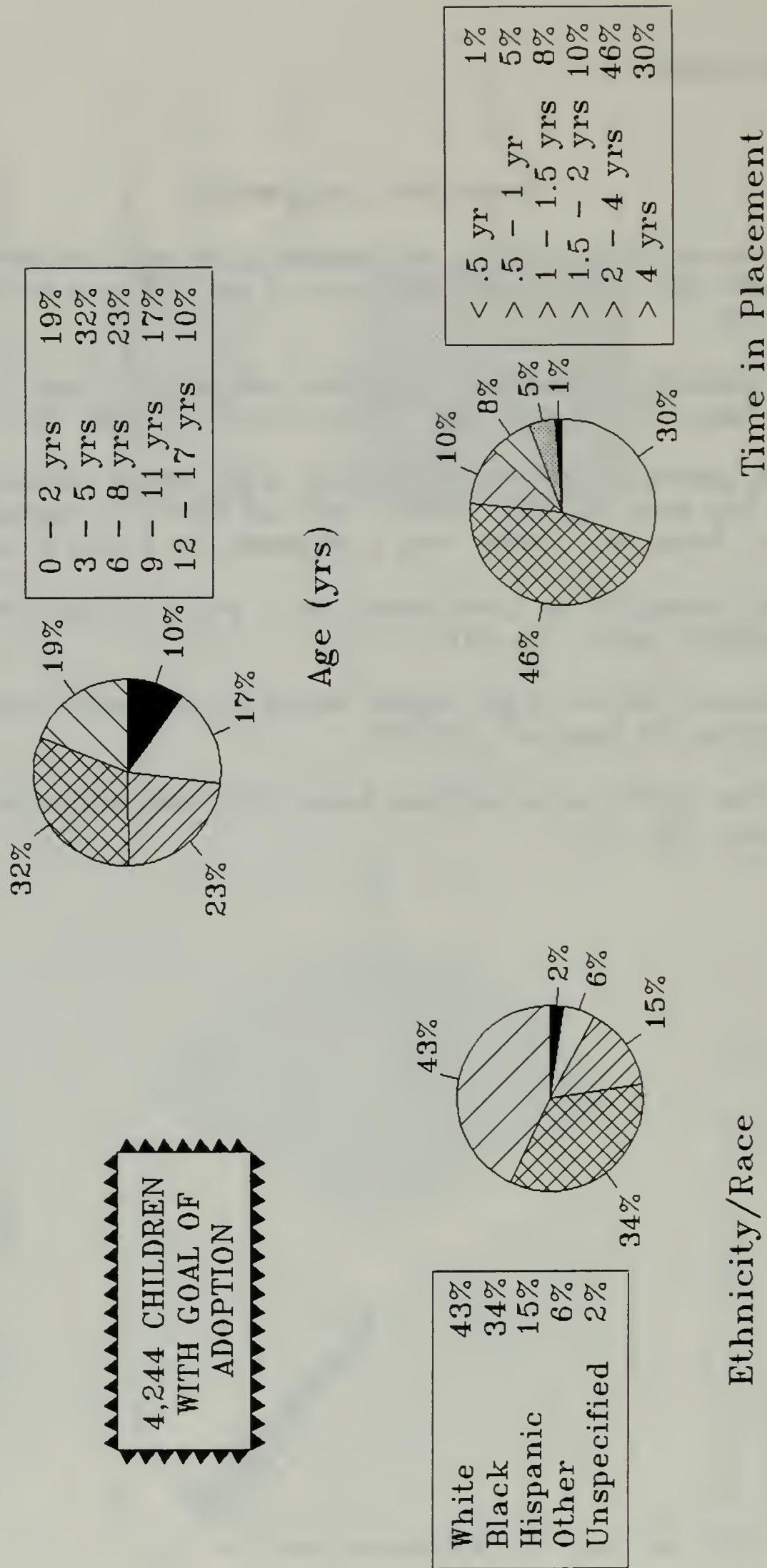
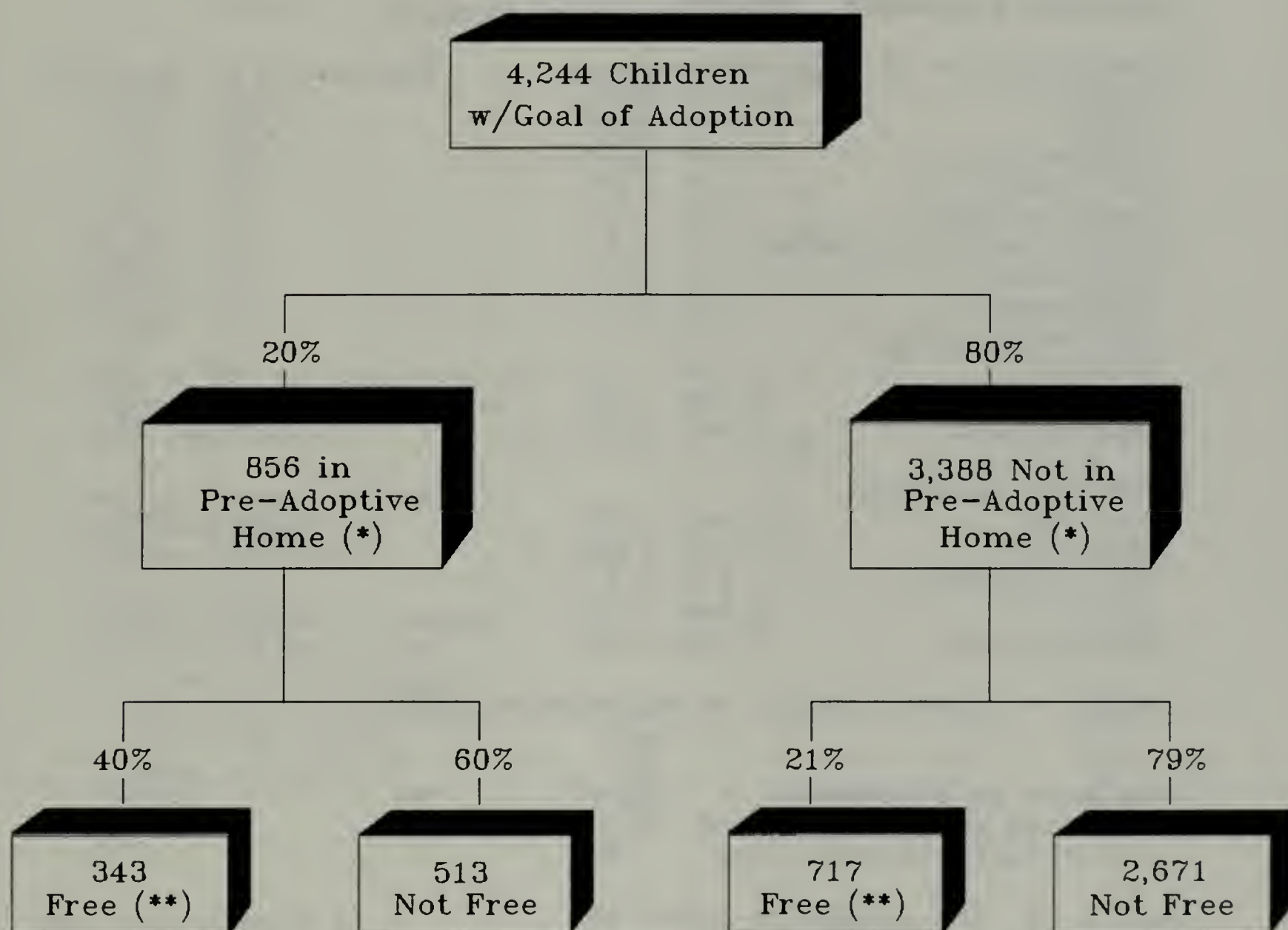


FIGURE 21. LOCATION AND LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN
IN PLACEMENT WITH A SERVICE PLAN GOAL
OF ADOPTION (JULY 1993)



* Pending Finalization

** Free = legally free for adoption

COMPARISON OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FROM 1987 AND 1993²¹

1987 Significant Changes in the Consumer Profile 1993

Consumers

Consumers statewide 66,087 vs. 73,298

Ethnicity/Race of all consumers:		vs.	
white	44,810 (68%)		41,041 (56%)
black	9,330 (14%)		13,923 (19%)
Hispanic	6,288 (10%)		11,659 (16%)
Portuguese	1,149 (2%)		986 (1%)
Cape Verdean	560 (*)		820 (1%)
Asian/Pacific Islander	277 (*)		220 (*)
Cambodian	218 (*)		632 (1%)
Vietnamese	126 (*)		353 (*)
Native American	119 (*)		114 (*)
Laotian	24 (*)		68 (*)
Other	1,324 (2%)		1,624 (2%)
Unspecified	1,862 (3%)		1,858 (3%)

Preferred language:		
English	53,480 (81%)	61,390 (84%)
Spanish	3,664 (6%)	5,568 (8%)
Haitian-Creole	175 (*)	301 (*)
Other	1,464 (2%)	1,979 (3%)
Unspecified	7,304 (11%)	4,060 (6%)

NOTE: * = Less than 1% after rounding-off

Consumers in placement:	8,940	vs.	13,311
children under 18 yrs old	8,082		12,577
individuals 18 and older	858		734

Length of time consumers spent in continuous placement (1990 earliest year available):		
less than 1 yr	35%	vs. 28%
1 to less than 2 yrs	24%	20%
2 or more yrs	41%	53%

²¹ The first demographic report on the DSS consumer population was produced in 1987.

1987Significant Changes (cont'd)1993Children

Children w/open case status:	37,555	vs.	43,178
not in placement	78%		71%
in placement	22%		29%

Children in Placement

Children in placement:	8,082	vs.	12,577
0 - 5 yrs	22%		34%
6 - 11 yrs	30%		27%
12 - 17 yrs (3,856)	48%		(4,881) 39%

white	63%	vs.	49%
black	20%		27%
Hispanic	8%		16%
other	9%		8%

median age of children in placement (1988 earliest year available):	10.7 yrs	vs.	9.3 yrs
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median length of time children spent in placement (1988):	1.5 yrs	vs.	2.1 yrs
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initial contact (reason for case opening) of children in placement:			
supported 51A report	59%	vs.	70%
voluntary request	28%		16%
CHINS referral	5%		6%
other	8%		8%

Children placed in pre-adoptive homes:	310	vs.	961
white	65%		49%
black	18%		30%
Hispanic	8%		12%
other	9%		9%

0 - 5 yrs old	35%	vs.	53%
6 - 11 yrs old	47%		39%
12 - 17 yrs old	18%		8%

1987

Significant Changes (cont'd)

1993

Children not in Placement

Children not in placement:	29,473	vs.	30,601
white	65%	vs.	55%
black	14%		17%
Hispanic	11%		18%
other	10%		10%
0 - 5 yrs old	28%	vs.	38%
6 - 11 yrs old	38%		32%
12 - 17 yrs old	34%		30%
supported 51A report	60%	vs.	74%
voluntary request	29%		14%
CHINS referral	5%		6%
other	6%		6%

APPENDIX

TOTAL POPULATION

Massachusetts Population Residing in the Department of Social Services Geographic Regions and Areas (1990 Census): Race and Hispanic Origin

DSS AREA/REGION	TOTAL No.	WHITE		BLACK		NATIVE AMERICAN		ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER		OTHER		(**) HISPANIC ORIGIN	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pittsfield	139,467	135,237	97%	2,534	2%	242	*	1,001	1%	453	*	1,407	1%
Greenfield	180,759	171,096	95%	2,807	2%	453	*	4,449	2%	1,954	1%	4,243	2%
Holyoke	296,826	277,678	94%	4,102	1%	477	*	2,226	1%	12,343	4%	19,515	7%
Springfield	203,161	152,716	75%	30,433	15%	361	*	2,254	1%	17,397	9%	26,821	13%
WEST	820,213	736,727	90%	39,876	5%	1,533	*	9,930	1%	32,147	4%	51,986	6%
Fitchburg	278,204	262,713	94%	6,651	2%	504	*	3,589	1%	4,747	2%	11,563	4%
South Central	317,089	309,000	97%	2,092	1%	496	*	2,995	1%	2,506	1%	5,857	2%
Worcester	169,759	147,827	87%	7,669	5%	540	*	4,770	3%	8,953	5%	16,258	10%
CENTRAL	765,052	719,540	94%	16,412	2%	1,540	*	11,354	1%	16,206	2%	33,678	4%
Lowell	253,561	229,757	91%	3,484	1%	360	*	14,091	6%	5,869	2%	12,004	5%
Lawrence	162,140	133,297	82%	5,327	3%	474	*	3,435	2%	19,607	12%	32,047	20%
Haverhill/Cape Ann	372,394	362,204	97%	3,715	1%	492	*	2,987	1%	2,996	1%	8,484	2%
Lynn	135,546	120,926	89%	6,767	5%	260	*	3,487	3%	4,106	3%	7,909	6%
NORTHEAST	923,641	846,184	92%	19,293	2%	1,586	*	24,000	3%	32,578	4%	60,444	7%
Tri-City	256,711	242,922	95%	6,238	2%	314	*	5,812	2%	1,425	1%	4,731	2%
Framingham	332,544	313,986	94%	6,367	2%	415	*	8,224	2%	3,552	1%	10,509	3%
Cambridge/Somerville	342,779	302,417	88%	19,006	6%	565	*	16,428	5%	4,363	1%	13,749	4%
Waltham	262,839	246,448	94%	4,806	2%	262	*	9,501	4%	1,822	1%	6,876	3%
Coastal	292,129	275,764	94%	5,635	2%	431	*	8,990	3%	1,309	*	3,335	1%
METRO	1,487,002	1,381,537	93%	42,052	3%	1,987	*	48,955	3%	12,471	1%	39,200	3%
Attleboro/Taunton	381,187	369,034	97%	5,057	1%	532	*	4,184	1%	2,380	1%	6,557	2%
Brockton	236,893	213,141	90%	15,393	6%	511	*	2,657	1%	5,191	2%	7,818	3%
Fall River	148,143	144,826	98%	1,095	1%	157	*	1,510	1%	555	*	1,958	1%
New Bedford	186,449	7	0%	5,053	3%	588	*	900	*	9,786	5%	7,864	4%
Cape & Islands/Plymouth	349,221	337,874	97%	5,038	1%	1,641	*	1,796	1%	2,872	1%	3,604	1%
SOUTHEAST	1,301,893	1,064,882	82%	31,636	2%	3,429	*	11,047	1%	20,784	2%	27,801	2%
Morton Street	574,283	360,875	63%	146,945	26%	1,884	*	30,388	5%	34,191	6%	61,955	11%
Dimock Street/Allston	54,718	47,839	87%	1,696	3%	79	*	4,585	8%	519	1%	1,596	3%
S.C.F. MHC	28,710	20,005	70%	1,492	5%	86	*	1,435	5%	5,692	20%	9,018	31%
Fields Corner	42,786	39,877	93%	599	1%	106	*	1,571	4%	633	1%	1,631	4%
Harbor	18,127	17,793	98%	129	1%	11	*	127	1%	67	*	240	1%
BOSTON ***	718,624	486,389	68%	150,861	21%	2,166	*	38,106	5%	41,102	6%	74,440	10%
MASSACHUSETTS	6,016,425	5,235,259	87%	300,130	5%	12,241	*	143,392	2%	155,288	3%	287,549	5%

* = less than 1% after rounding-off.

** = Hispanic Origin of any race.

*** = City/town census data could not be converted to DSS Areas (sections of Boston) within the Boston geographic region.

CHILD POPULATION (Under 18 Years old)

Massachusetts Population Residing in the Department of Social Services Geographic Regions and Areas (1990 Census): Race and Hispanic Origin

DSS AREA/REGION	<18 TOTAL		WHITE		BLACK		NATIVE AMERICAN		ASIAN/ PACIFIC ISLANDER		OTHER		(**) HISPANIC ORIGIN	
	No.		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Pittsfield	31,709		30,335	96%	807	3%	70	*	287	1%	210	1%	467	1%
Greenfield	37,796		35,291	93%	730	2%	140	*	944	2%	691	2%	1,377	4%
Holyoke	70,580		62,361	88%	1,470	2%	135	*	631	1%	5,983	8%	9,080	13%
Springfield	53,057		33,847	64%	10,454	20%	112	*	723	1%	7,921	15%	11,907	22%
WEST	193,142		161,834	84%	13,461	7%	457	*	2,585	1%	14,805	8%	22,831	12%
Fitchburg	71,184		65,967	93%	2,039	3%	142	*	1,325	2%	1,711	2%	4,422	6%
South Central	80,304		77,354	96%	723	1%	138	*	1,028	1%	1,061	1%	2,374	3%
Worcester	37,843		29,212	77%	2,812	7%	201	1%	1,600	4%	4,018	11%	7,033	19%
CENTRAL	189,331		172,533	91%	5,574	3%	481	*	3,953	2%	6,790	4%	13,829	7%
Lowell	65,097		55,578	85%	1,116	2%	98	*	5,779	9%	2,526	4%	4,972	8%
Lawrence	44,659		32,288	72%	2,049	5%	200	*	1,225	3%	8,897	20%	14,072	32%
Haverhill/Cape Ann	82,690		79,091	96%	1,225	1%	143	*	1,010	1%	1,221	1%	3,205	4%
Lynn	31,228		25,447	81%	2,486	8%	79	*	1,493	5%	1,723	6%	3,116	10%
NORTHEAST	223,674		192,404	86%	6,876	3%	520	*	9,507	4%	14,367	6%	25,365	11%
Tri-City	51,410		47,659	93%	1,698	3%	87	*	1,559	3%	407	1%	1,237	2%
Framingham	75,506		70,020	93%	1,654	2%	104	*	2,631	3%	1,097	1%	3,219	4%
Cambridge/Somerville	60,648		50,821	84%	5,172	9%	123	*	3,219	5%	1,313	2%	3,632	6%
Waltham	47,280		43,239	91%	1,043	2%	33	*	2,405	5%	560	1%	1,831	4%
Coastal	59,404		54,607	92%	1,680	3%	122	*	2,570	4%	425	1%	996	2%
METRO	294,248		266,346	91%	11,247	4%	469	*	12,384	4%	3,802	1%	10,915	4%
Attleboro/Taunton	92,863		89,071	96%	1,425	2%	154	*	1,461	2%	752	1%	2,193	2%
Brockton	59,296		50,894	86%	5,408	9%	138	*	872	1%	1,984	3%	2,888	5%
Fall River	35,308		33,977	96%	448	1%	52	*	628	2%	203	1%	628	2%
New Bedford	45,251		39,801	88%	1,700	4%	163	*	283	1%	3,304	7%	3,145	7%
Cape & Islands/Plymouth	83,127		79,404	96%	1,553	2%	529	1%	713	1%	928	1%	1,209	1%
SOUTHEAST	315,845		293,147	93%	10,534	3%	1,036	*	3,957	1%	7,171	2%	10,063	3%
Morton Street	109,833		46,157	42%	44,506	41%	530	*	6,595	6%	12,045	11%	19,836	18%
Dimock Street/Allston	8,650		7,029	81%	445	5%	25	*	981	11%	170	2%	396	5%
S.C.F. MHC	7,287		3,974	55%	511	7%	23	*	548	8%	2,231	31%	3,404	47%
Fields Corner	8,089		6,948	86%	189	2%	33	*	712	9%	207	3%	468	6%
Harbor	2,976		2,887	97%	35	1%	3	*	31	1%	20	1%	68	2%
BOSTON ***	136,835		66,995	49%	45,686	33%	614	*	8,867	6%	14,673	11%	24,172	18%
MASSACHUSETTS	1,353,075		1,153,259	85%	93,378	7%	3,577	*	41,253	3%	61,608	5%	107,175	8%

* = less than 1% after rounding-off.

** = Hispanic Origin of any race.

*** = City/town census data could not be converted to DSS Areas (sections of Boston) within the Boston geographic region

